

The DC Gazette

JUNE - JULY 1980



ONE OF 224 photographic prints in "Old Washington in Early Photographs: 1846-1932" by Robert Reed. This book, just published by Dover, is an excellent addition to your DC bookshelf. We hope to stock it so watch our own Bookshelf listings. The photo above was taken in 1900 and shows, among other things, the Post Office Building, which had just been constructed.

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The billion dollar bungle

SAM SMITH

Let's review the bidding: As we go to press the city's ~~budget for the current fiscal year is \$186 million~~ million in the red. But wait a second. That was before the city announced that projected revenues for the year were expected to run about \$11 million less than projected. Better make that \$186 million.

To that figure you better add at least \$60 million for the new fiscal year starting October 1. In the traditional fashion of the DC government, Marion Barry balanced his fiscal 1981 budget by assuming Congress would give the city the entire federal payment it asked for. And in the traditional fashion of Congress, that figure has been cut by \$60 million so far. Now we're \$246 million in the hole.

Enter Arthur Anderson & Co., the accountants trying to make some sense out of the city's books. According to them, the city has accumulated a \$284 million hidden deficit over the past ten years. Sixty percent of this amount was incurred before we got home rule. On the other hand, we also incurred the administration of Walter Washington before we got home rule so this statistic is not as meaningful as it might appear on the surface. The auditors finally caught up with the game of fiscal musical chairs that Walter Washington and Comer Coppie played so well: changing the dates when taxes were due, throwing accounts payable into the next fiscal year, not paying back bridge loans from the US Treasury, switching from the accrual to the cash method of accounting for a one-time gain, and so forth.

As the city's financial advisers, Lazard Freres & Co., put it in the genteel language of its trade, the city got in trouble, in part, by carrying over "prior year liabilities into subsequent years without adequate provisions for their payment."

To put it more bluntly, the city has, for a decade or more, been engaged in a sophisticated version of check-kiting and saying, "The check's in the mail." That it has done so with impunity merely points to another way in which politicians and bureaucrats are different from the rest of us.

The \$284 million figure includes the \$40 million the city needs to refund for the ill-fated professionals tax, so don't add that separately. Make the total now \$530 million.

Finally, the accountants estimated that there are

about \$739 million in unfunded pension liabilities waiting in the wing. They note that this is not an "emergency." But it is a debt which, at present, we have no money to repay. That is a mite troubling, to say the least. So make the total one billion, two hundred and sixty-nine million dollars.

\$

The question, of course, arises: whose fault is it anyway? The basic answer is: everyone's. Undoubtedly top honors go to the United States Congress, which, alternately starved the city and then force-fed it on the junk food of its pet projects. It spent -- and encouraged the city to spend -- money unwisely even as it was arbitrarily rejecting funds that would have encouraged a measure of financial responsibility.

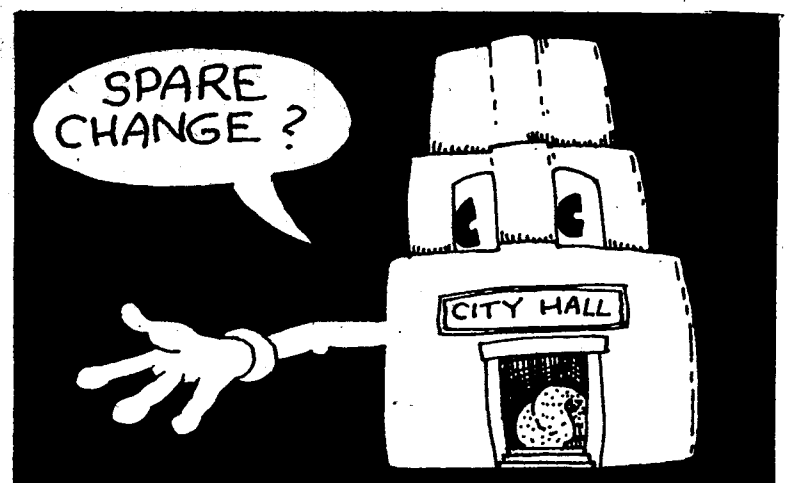
The same Congress that refused the city an adequate federal payment, that repossessed local surpluses when they developed, that denied the city the right to tax commuters in the fashion of other major American cities, (this tax alone could, in one year, wipe out the short-term city deficit with some left over for the long-term one), also helped to lead the city into monstrous commitments it could not keep: Metro, the convention center, the pension programs. Even the excessive fiscal manipulations of the Walter Washington administration -- before and after home rule -- pale in the face of Congress's financial irresponsibility.

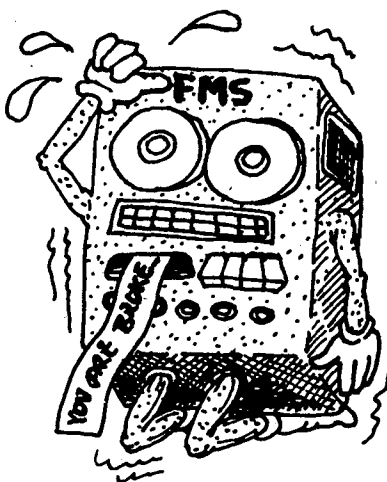
To be sure, Washington must take some of the blame. In terms of local responsibility for the present mess -- much of the blame. His administration was a fiscal funhouse. You would look at one of his figures in the mirror and it would seem plump. But then you would step back a few feet and it would shrink to the width of a reed. His approach to fiscal affairs was to make sure that you always stood at the right place in front of the mirror. It was a disaster, the survival instincts of a bureaucrat gone haywire.

Enter Marion Barry. Barry should have known better. After all, he had been head of the council's finance and revenue committee; he knew a lot of the tricks; he had done a respectable job trying to penetrate them and make some sense out of the city's financial situation. He made one mistake -- and it was a big one: he pressed for a tax on professionals that wiser heads warned would never stand a court test.

Then he made a second mistake. It is one that anyone who serves aboard a ship as an officer of the deck learns quickly not to make. When you come up on the bridge and before you take over the watch you find out where you are. If your predecessor says the ship is safely off a shoal you don't believe him. You take your own fix and make sure you know where you are. Boards of inquiry tend not to look very far back into history.

Politicians, however, work differently. Perhaps it is their egos that lead them to assume that even if everything isn't all right they can make it so. So they enter office blind and then comes the third mistake that Barry made. They take responsibility for it. In the early days of the budget crisis, Barry did this with almost masochistic fervor. He hadn't hidden the deficit. He hadn't created Congress's perverse sense of fiscal values. He hadn't managed, in one year in office, to gain control over a system that involves 40,000 opportunities for fiscal fudging. But because he was obsessed with trying to make it look as though he could handle the problem -- whatever it was, many assumed that he was far more responsible for it than was the case.





In fact, Barry, who can be blamed for a lot of things, deserves much lighter criticism than he has gotten in the budget matter.

It is true that he failed to gain control over the city's fiscal affairs after coming into office so that his administration, like previous ones, overspent its budget. He did try to fudge the figures to make things look better than they were. He did say as late as March 3, "We have solved much of our fiscal problem." He did insert unnecessary politics into his budget approach, witness his efforts to use the budget crisis as leverage in his battle with the school board. And he and his city administrator did play what the *Washington Star* called "firemen first," raising the spectre of massive layoffs in primary services in order to gain political support for his fiscal plan.

But after a few months of trying out such tactics he finally did something unique in the recent fiscal history of DC: he laid the cards out on the table. One may argue that he had little choice and one may dis-

pute his proposed solutions, but the fact is that for the first time in more than a decade, we have a fairly accurate picture of the city's fiscal situation.

Barry still hasn't come up with a long-range plan that will give a reasonable assurance that his short-range remedies won't be merely that. He still seems to regard criticism of budget cuts as a personal affront. He still appears obsessed with proving he is a leader and spends too much time talking instead of listening and directing instead of mediating and compromising. But we should be wary of letting complaints about his style or his views on such matters as convention centers, taverns, hotels and the like spill over into a presumption that somehow he is the one mainly to blame for the budget crisis. He isn't; rather he is just another of its ever-growing number of victims.

Letters

I have received two issues of your paper so far and I love it. But it is also depressing to know that we can't run the city right and we can't run the country right... We've screwed up the world... but I have a solution. Let's turn the world over to kids. I have three boys, 10, 14, and 17, and they could do a better job (and I am serious) than any grown-up I know.

It seems kids have it together before they reach the outer world when they graduate.

Let's send the lawmakers on a junket to the Dark Side of the Moon.

DEBBIE VARECHA
Murphysboro, Ill.

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The DC Gazette

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DC Eye

QUOTE OF THE MONTH (from Bobby Linowes of the Board of Trade: "Beneath the smooth veneer of this community lies the seeds of too many problems to bear more bitter fruit under the right conditions." Trying to crack through veneer will make the fruit bitter every time.

FROM THE WASHINGTON POST OF March 9: "All Utah Condemned to Face Firing Squad."

GAY AND WOMEN'S LOBBIES did well in the recent primary. The Gertrude Stein Democratic Club got five of its six candidates elected as delegates or alternates; the DC Women's Political Caucus scored ten out of 13.

Sorry to tell you this, but those funny marks in the grass at Lafayette Square are rat paths. They have a high old time of it there at night right under the President's nose.

Several oil companies are looking around the Appalachian Mountains and vicinity for oil and gas. If you go 10,000-20,000 feet below the Blue Ridge you'll find sedimentary rocks that may contain fuel. So don't call it horse country any more, folks; it's the "eastern overthrust belt" with geological similarities to a part of Wyoming where oil was struck.

The City Hall New Times has been deep-sixed to save money. Edited by Jan Lipkin, it was quite a cut above normal government publications with good information and human interest mixed in with the flackery. In one of the last issues of the award-winning paper, a trivia contest was run. The winner of the contest -- which tested DC workers' knowledge of little known aspects of DC history -- was none other than erstwhile Gazette associate editor Carl Bergman and his colleague at the Auditor's Office, Norma Wegner. David Splitt, editor exemplary of the DC Register was second and Cathy Dodson of the Office of Budget and Resource Development was third.

They were honored a by a resolution of the council (plus some time off). The resolution was one of the few of the genre worth reading.

Wegner and Bergman were described as having "demonstrated the perspicacity characteristic of employees of the DC Auditor's Office who, like Shakespeare's Autolycus, are daily about the business of snapping up 'unconsidered trifles.'"

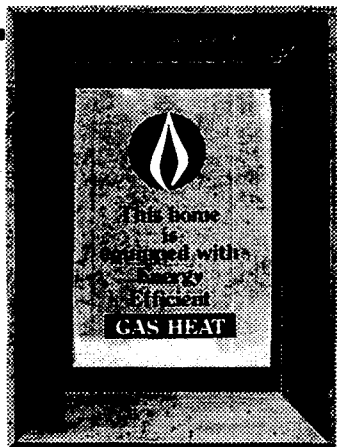
Dave Splitt "displayed the sensitivity of a Samuel Pepys in understanding the need to record 'the small as well as the large essential that conveys a sense of life' and Cathry Dodson "exhibited the dedication to detail, however trivial, which has earned the budget office a special place in the minds and hearts of many DC employees."

The council congratulated the winners for "demonstrating an extraordinary remembrance of things past and an understanding the Council shares of the importance of trivia."

Now, for the grand DC Trivia Championship, tell us who wrote that.

CITY HALL GOSSIP: When the next shoe will fall in the continuing investigation of the affairs of Pride Inc. by prosecutors and the Washington Post. Really heavy stuff being bandied about. . . . Is Congress thinking about taking away or limiting home rule? . . . Should the city buy abacuses for employees to use when the financial computer goes on the blink?

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The two faces of Adams-Morgan

An important survey of Adams-Morgan and Mount Pleasant was released last month by the Latino Affairs Office of the city government. The study, based on a survey of every sixth household in the two neighborhoods found that 20 percent of the households were latino, 36 percent were black and 38 percent were white. Residents represented a wide range of nationalities with some 36 percent speaking a language other than English in their homes.

The survey found two separate and parallel communities within the neighborhoods. The higher-income homeowners expressed a high degree of satisfaction with their housing and their community. Renters, who were largely black or latino, had lower incomes and a greater degree

of dissatisfaction with their housing. The renters also expressed substantial concern about displacement.

In a more detailed survey of latino households, the survey found that housing, education and employment were considered to be the three greatest areas of concern.

Other findings were:

- About a third of the residents are DC natives.

- Median household income was \$13,600 but whites had a median income of \$20,000 while blacks and latinos had a median income of \$10,000.

- Latino and black households were more likely to have been long time residents of the area than white households, suggesting a pat-

tern of displacement.

- Sixteen percent of the latinos were unemployed.

- Of latinos interviewed, sixty-four percent were unaware of social service programs available to them, but of those receiving services, 75 percent were satisfied with them.

Angled parking has come to 18th St. The experiment more than doubles the number of parking spaces on the east side of the street between Columbia and Kalorama. Businesses had complained they were hurting because of lack of adequate parking in the neighborhood. Speed limits in the area have been reduced to 15 mph and flower boxes have been installed.

Hotel issue remains

Citizen groups have expressed fear that the wording of the Zoning Commission ruling that presumably blocks hotel construction or expansion in residential neighborhoods is written in such a way that the hotel industry may find a way through. Further, they are concerned by the refusal to bar hotels in mixed residential and commercial zones.

Their concern is matched on the other side by the hotel people. Edward MacMillan, president of the Hotel Association, told the Washington Star, "We feel the actions of the Zoning Commission have definitely mortgaged the economic future of the city. The city is fiscally ill. We think the Zoning Commission action has pulled the bed out from under the patient."

He blamed "middle-class upper-income whites" who want to protect their restored homes and rent-controlled apartments from which they previously displaced the poor.

"The most dangerous and the most sinister force working against the city now is the citizen groups that use the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions as a power base."

The attack should provide some comfort to the neighborhood com-

missions which have felt they lacked sufficient clout with the city government. In fact, hotel construction and expansion has been booming since the commissions came into existence, a considerable turn-about from the time when the city watched idly as thousands of moderate-priced hotel rooms were lost as city hall-encouraged developers took over downtown for office buildings. The commissions have been merely trying to slow this new trend in order to prevent the displacement of their constituents.

Rhodes struggle

Although with no thanks to people like Marion Barry and the editorial staff of the Washington Post, the struggle to save Rhodes Tavern continues. The controversy has gotten play in papers all over the country, but one of the best pieces was by Martin Nolan of the Boston Globe. Nolan noted:

The Washington Post agreed in an editorial about the "homely little building." Saving the tavern "seems to have no aesthetic advantage," the Post said. "You have to ask yourself where you would wind up if you carry the urge to preserve too far," the Post editorial said. "Fine Arts Commission chairman Carter Brown made the point quite nicely, we think. 'Do we go back to the forest?' he asked." The Post's equation of the architecture and ambience of the 18th century and the forest primeval says much of this city's attitude toward the past. Washington is surrounded by exquisite, isolated "restorations," Colonial Williamsburg the most notorious example.

[Please turn to page 7]

RECREATIONAL RIVERS?

The Department of Interior has listed the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, along with Rock Creek, as possible "recreational rivers." If designated, they would be placed on the National River Inventory list. President Carter has ordered that "all federal agencies shall avoid or mitigate adverse effects on rivers identified in the National Inventory."

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WILLARD STILL NOT CERTAIN

The would-be developer of the Willard Hotel, Stuart S. Golding, says that if interest rates are not down to about 12 percent by next April he won't be able to go ahead with the development of the 14th & Penna., Ave. site. The deal is that that Golding will have a 99-year lease at \$800,000 a year with the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Commission also getting a share in gross receipts and, later on, a percentage of the net cash flow. Golding estimates that the hotel will open in mid-1983.

What's Happening

- The city wants 200 day-care mothers for children up to 14 years who need supervision before and after school or while their mothers work. Day care providers are paid \$5.60 per day per child on a monthly basis. Also being sought are foster parents. Approximately 250 children are waiting to be placed in foster homes. For information on the day care program call 724-0762. For information on foster homes call 727-3180.

- There will be a hearing June 11 at 10 am in room 114 of the District Building on the mayor's nominees to the convention center board.

- The area's new food bank has opened at 2266 25th place NE.

- The Pierce-Warwick Adoption Service is looking for homes for school age males. Info: 966-2531 or visit their office at 5229 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20015. Pierce-Warwick can also provide speakers for groups.

- THE FUND FOR AN OPEN SOCIETY is offering debentures in \$1000 lots to help provide affordable financing for housing in DC. This group has a long and sound history in the field of equal housing and while the dividends on the debentures are not as great as you might get elsewhere, the return is better than in a savings account and it is a way individuals can do something specific to help the city's housing crisis. Info: Mike Mayer, 1901 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Md. 20910 (301-585-4156).

- The DC Feminist Alliance holds a meeting on June 16 at 7 pm at All Souls Church, 16th & Harvard NW. Open to all DC area women. Info: Nan Hunter at 465-3410 or Laureen France at 466-2400

- The District of Columbia Tax Facts booklet for fiscal year 1980 is now available. It provides a summary of the city's tax structure, detailed information about each tax levied by the city, and fiscal year collections for each type of tax, filing dates, comparison data with other jurisdictions and a history of the city's tax system. For a copy call 727-6027.

- People who have complaints about taxi service they have (or haven't) received, should send a brief statement of the problem, along with the identification number of the taxicab driver or the license tag number, to the Public Vehicles Division, 600 Indiana Ave. NW, DC 20004. If you have questions about the taxi regulations or about filing a complaint call 727-5646. The Department of Transportation has announced plans for stepped-up enforcement of the taxi regulations. The city's Hacker's Board has the authority to hold a hearing when a complaint is brought by a citizen and to suspend or revoke a taxi license if a hearing officer finds that an operator has violated the city's regulations.

- The Red Cross needs volunteer teenagers to help with its programs this summer. Tasks include working with hospital patients and the elderly in nursing homes, helping the handicapped and filling staff positions. You must be 14 or older and have completed the seventh grade. Call 857-3422 for information or an appointment to be interviewed.

- A consumer hotline has been installed by the city government. You can call the number (598-8566) during normal working hours and ask to hear any one of the nearly 100 recorded messages in the Office of Consumer Protection tape library. Among the topics are credit and money matters, environment and energy concerns, health and food services, complaint handling, legal services and comparison shopping information.

- The Anacostia High School, class of 1960, holds

its 20th reunion on June 14. Info: Carol Landberg (638-1393) or Faye Morrisette (703-978-8150).

- The latest edition of Washington Consumer's Checkbook discusses basement waterproofers and other home services such as nurseries, hardware stores and small appliance retailers. As usual, Checkbook rates the various alternatives based on its own investigations and consumer complaints and comments. For a copy send \$4.95 to Checkbook, 1518 K NW (406), DC 20006.

- Here are some of the vacancies coming up on various boards and commissions this month:
Board of Appeals and Review: 7 vacancies
Commission on Arts & Humanities: 6 vacancies
Pharmacy Board: 2 vacancies
Committee on Post-Secondary Education: 11 vacancies
Public Defender Service Board of Trustees: 2 vacancies
Public Service Commission: 1 vacancy
Rental Accommodations Commission: 1 vacancy
To find out about duties, qualifications, etc. call 727-1372. To make a nomination write the mayor and include a resume of the nominee, letters of endorsement etc.

- Free rabies shots will be given at the following DC schools on June 22 and 29 from noon to 3 pm:
Northwest: Adams, Deal, Montgomery, Roosevelt, Whittier.

Southwest: Randall

Southeast: Kramer and Ballou

Northeast: Burroughs, Merrit and Spingarn

Not only should dogs get shots every three years after their first year, but cats should be vaccinated every year as well.

- Exploring the Sky: A National Park Service program on the planets, 9 pm, June 14, Picnic Grove 16, Military and Glover Rds. NW. A telescope will be available. Info: 426-6829.

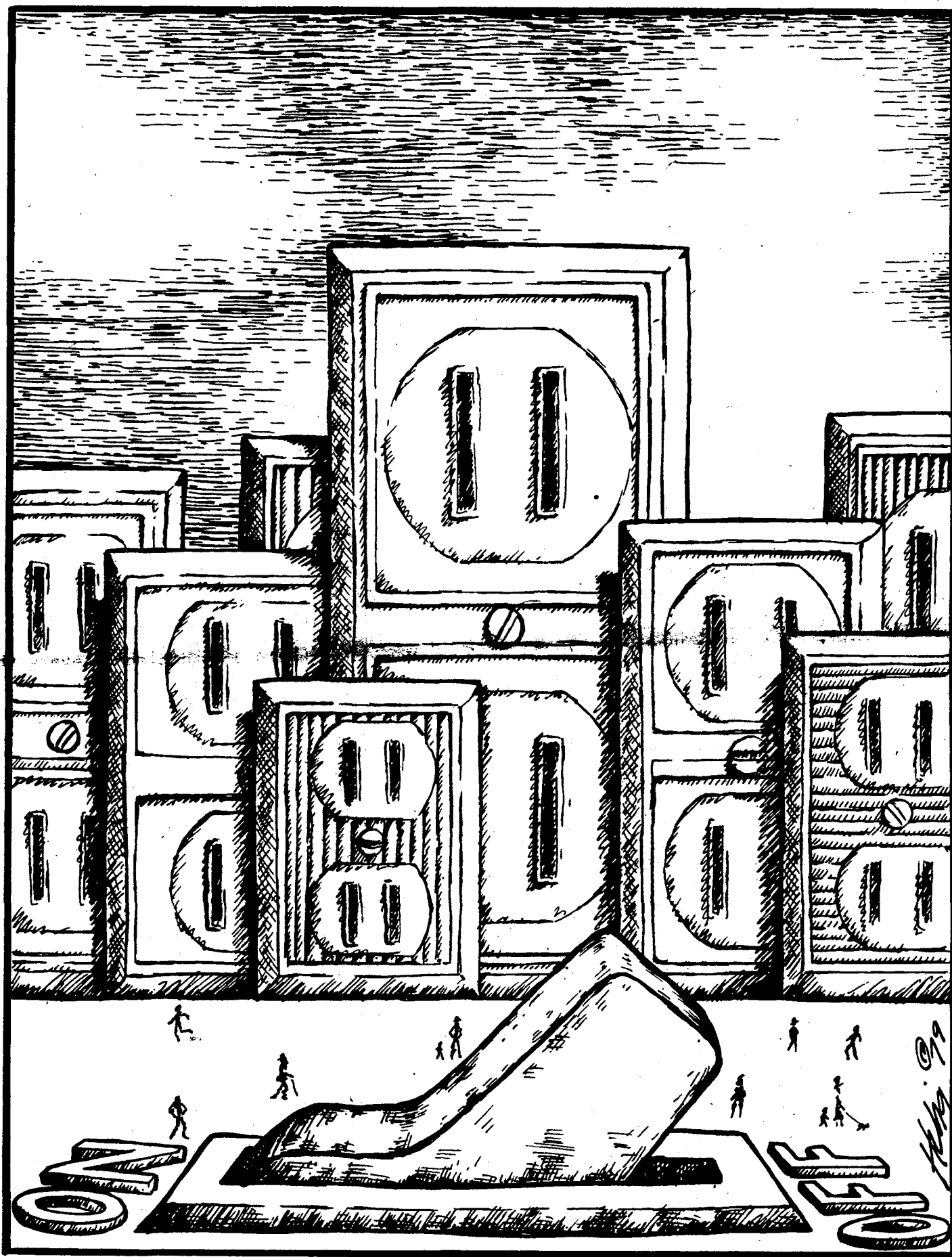
- Insect Trek: A two hour search for insects starts 3 pm, June 28 at the Rock Creek Nature Center, Military and Glover Roads NW. Info: 426-6829.



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Weather Report

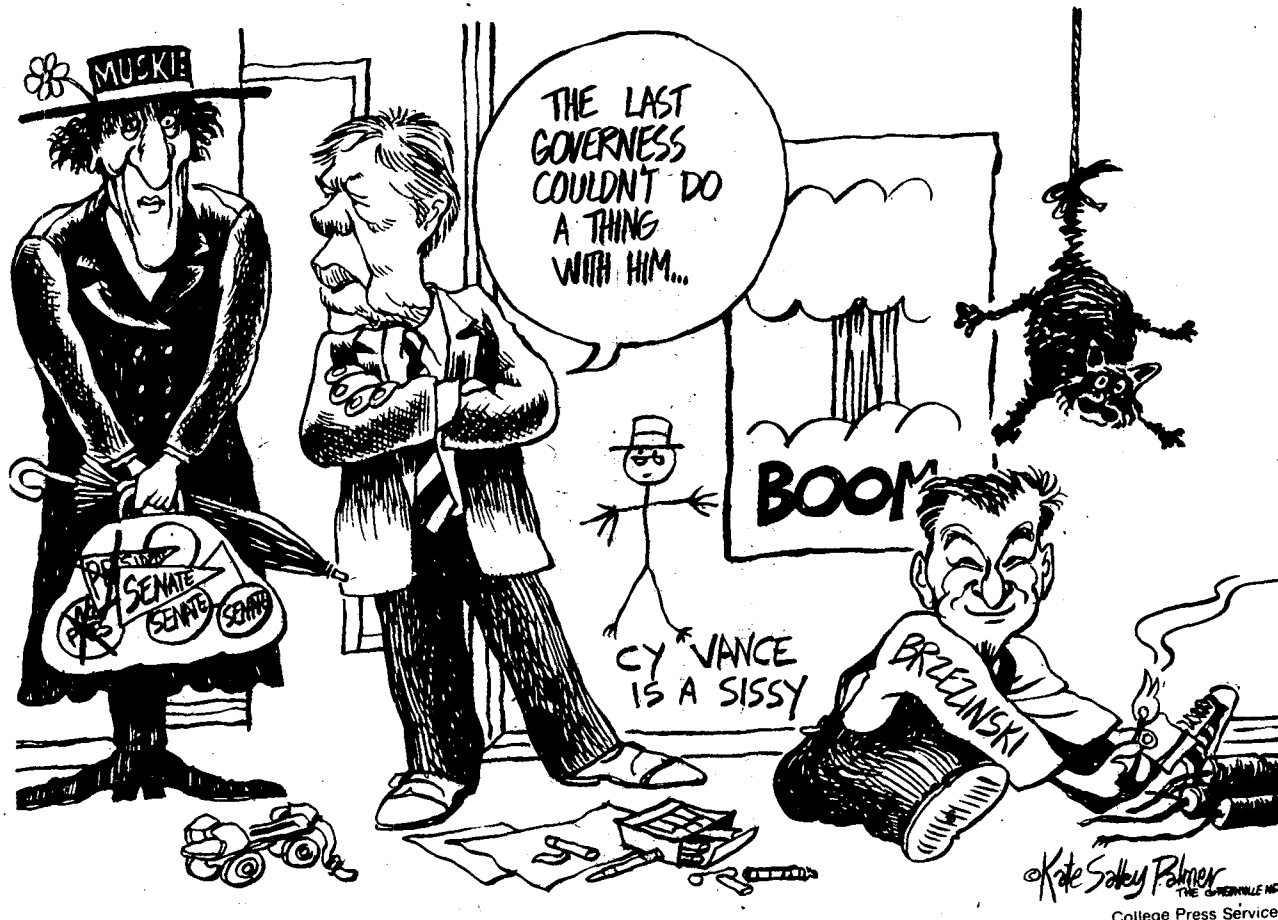
AN ALTERNATIVE JOURNAL



Why Prices Change

Black English

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Action Notes

- The Institute for World Order (777 United Nations Plaza, NYC NY 10017) is offering awards of \$10,000, \$3000 and \$1000 to authors of published articles which, in the judges's opinion, best demonstrate the advantages of an enduring peace system to all nations and groups of people. Articles must be published between July 1 and December 31. Write IWO for further info.

- Anti-nuke groups in Pennsylvania have formed a coalition called the Three Mile Isdland Public Interest Resources Center, as well as the Three Mile Island Legal Fund. Info on both groups from 1037 Maclay St., Harrisburg, Pa. 17103.

- How To Talk Back to the Telephone Company is an organizers' guide for challenges to local telephone monopolies put out by the Nader- affiliated National Citizens Committee for Broadcasting. Copies

are \$10 for citizens and \$20 for businesses from NCCB, PO Box 12038, DC 20005.

- Two publications on the CETA program are available. Understanding CETA is free from the National Urban Coalition, 1201 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20036. Making CETA Work is \$4 from the Center for Neighborhood Technology, 570 W. Randolph St. Chicago Ill. 60606.

- A free booklet on localism and some of the issues surrounding it is available from the Kettering Foundation, 5335 Far Hills Avenbue Dayton Ohio 45429, 513-434-7300.

- Reel Change: A Guide to Social Issue Films lists over 500 films, indexed and evaluated. \$8.20 from The Film Fund, Box 909, San Francisco, CA 94101.

- In the tradition of the Vietnam Summer of 1967 and the Freedom Summer of 1964, a coalition of organizations have put together a project focussing on nuclear dangers, economic crises and environmental prob-

lems, called Survival Summer. For info on activities write Survival Summer, 3601 Locust St., Phila Pa. 19104.

- The Shalom Network which describes itself as a "link for Jewish actively committed to Israel's survival and Palestinian self-determination" puts out a newsletter that is available for \$5 for individuals and \$10 for institutions. Write them at 434 Mercer Ave., River Edge, NJ 07661.

Chuck Stone

I saw it coming two years ago. Several prominent black leaders had started reacting to the country's born-again racial conservatism as if they all had met accidentally at the same church, but knew in advance what hymn was to be sung. In public speeches, National Urban League president Parren Mitchell and historian Lerone Bennett alluded to a worsening economic desperation that might erupt into black violence.

It was the first time since the late 1960s that moderate spokesmen had raised the spectre of racial violence. But nobody paid any attention to them.

I began clipping such warnings and titled the file, "The Fire Next Time." That fire finally seared sun-splashed Miami.

"Black leadership isn't too aggressive down here," one prominent black news executive told me recently. "It's very complacent. Blacks gave up on black leadership because white folks ignored it." The executive laughed. "Well the brother went out and got their attention."

WEATHER REPORT

The Weather Report is published monthly (except during the summer) by the DC Gazette. Single copies: 50 cents. Annual subscription: \$5. The Weather Report uses the services of Pacific News Service, College Press Service, Zodiac News Service and Community Press Features and the National News Bureau.

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CORRESPONDENTS: Eric Green, Chuck Stone, David Armstrong, Paul Krassner

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After a three year hiatus, the Gazette has revived its National Action Guide. This listing provides the names and addresses of hundreds of national activist organizations plus a list of alternative media around the country. For a copy send \$3 to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009. Just ask for NAG.

The executive cited unemployment as one of the major causes of the violence. Experts always do.

Yet, Miami's black unemployment in 1978 was only 9.6 percent, compared to Philadelphia's 19.1 percent. Miami black unemployment was even below the national average of 11 percent.

Miami blacks kept thinking their condition would improve until the heavy Cuban influx dimmed those hopes. As both groups competed for the same service jobs, the Cubans seemed to be moving ahead faster. Then, retrenchments started cutting out on-the-job training and other social welfare programs. And when the four Miami cops were found not guilty of murdering the black ex-Marine insurance salesman Arthur McDuffie, the last shred of belief in equal justice under the law died with him.

Declared a black youth counselor to two Wall Street Journal reporters: "I get jive from the whites on the job, crap from the Cubans, and when I come home, I get it from the cops. I'm convinced this is the only way."

The same frustration drove blacks in 1967 to a similar self-destruction.

In 1980, Miami's response seems to be replication of other 1967 mistakes. When the country seemed to be plunging toward a racial showdown in 1967, President Johnson summoned black leaders to a September meeting in the White House. At his request, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Whitney Young, A. Philip Randolph, James Farmer and Roy Wilkins issued a collective plea to blacks to "cool it." Cynical blacks listened and then proceeded to sack 29 more cities. They knew exhortations were no substitute for change.

In Miami, national black leaders have arrived and are busy profiling for the local newspapers and television stations which previously

treated the black community as an afterthought. The belief that a prominent black's appearance will somehow find jobs and prevent police brutality is one of the most remarkable delusions ever shared nationally by whites.

After the Watts riot, noted psychologist Dr. Kenneth Clark testified to its causes and the failure of elected officials to learn from past experience. He said he had read a report of a race riot 20 years before Watts and noted its recurring "Alice in Wonderland" quality. The only thing Miami 1980 proves is that America has learned nothing from Chicago 1919 or Philadelphia 1944.

Dante Fascell, one of Miami's congressmen and one of Congress's most sensitive members, says, "We have to understand that this is our community. It's not just nice, green suburbs and somebody's else's ghetto. It's our ghetto."

"Our ghetto" desperately needs jobs, the absolute termination of police brutality, and, above all, the joyous expectancy that it can make the system respond to its pain.

None of these improvements are destined to come to Miami, no matter what actions the attorney general takes or how many visits Jimmy Carter makes.

Miami is part of a national mentality that has concluded black equality is no longer worth worrying about. Blacks are determined to prove differently.

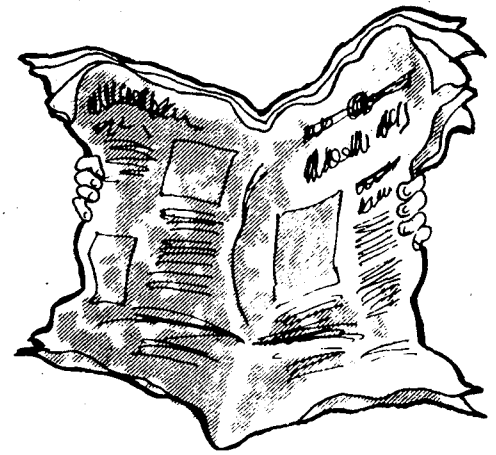
Around the country, these two mentalities are now starting to collide with catastrophic repercussions. Ominously predicts Fascell: "It may be a long hot summer for a lot of places, not just Miami."

James Baldwin sounded that same warning 18 years ago:

If we -- and now I mean the relatively conscious whites and the relatively conscious blacks, who must, like lovers, insist

on, or create the consciousness of the others -- do not falter in our duty now, we may be able to end the racial nightmare, and achieve our country, and change the history of the world. If we do not now dare everything, the fulfillment of that prophecy, recreated from the Bible in song by a slave is upon us: "God gave Noah the rainbow sign. No more water, the fire next time!"

[Philadelphia Daily News]



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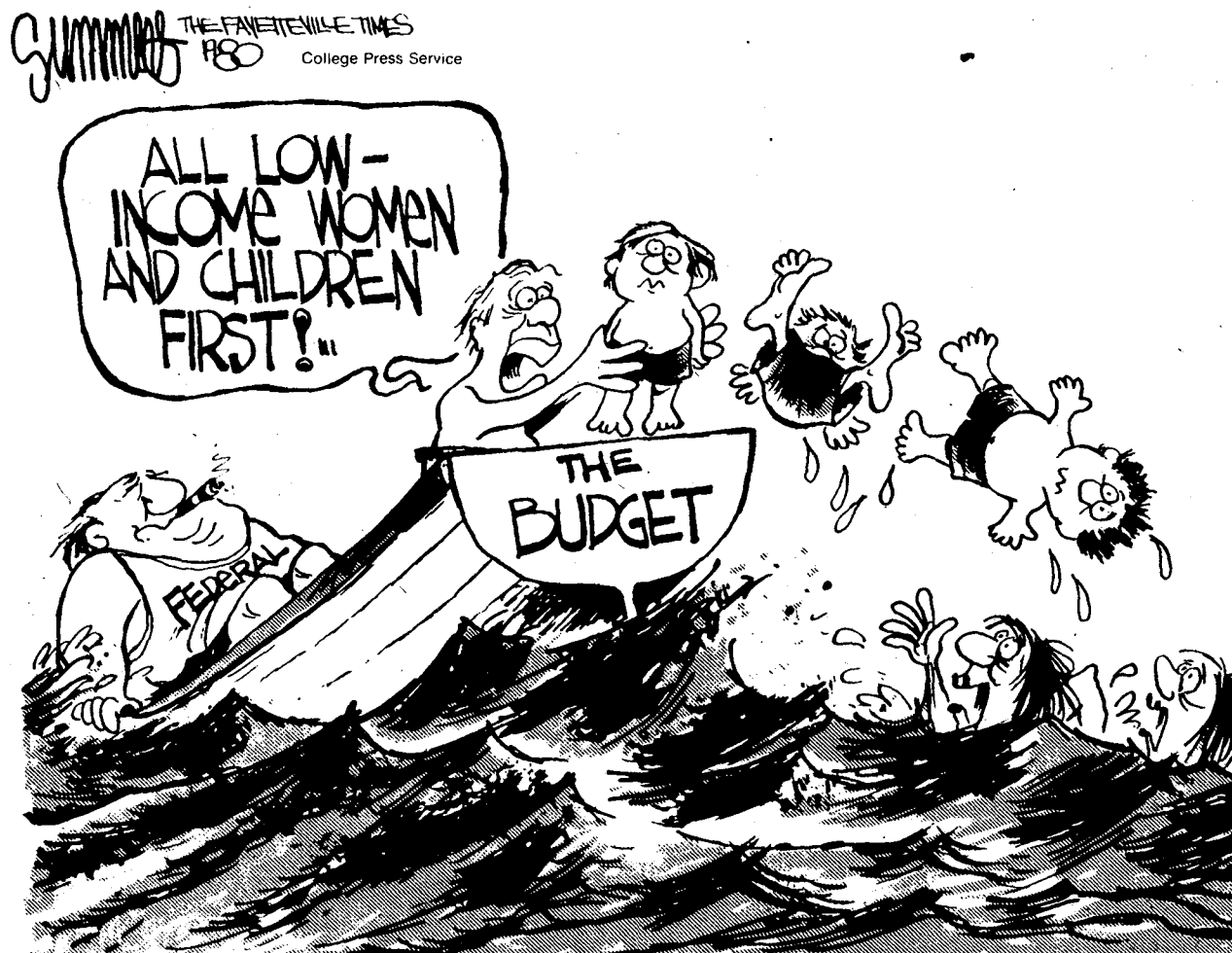
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It's not as simple as it seems

Why Prices Change

Lewis Smith

As consulting economist Lewis Smith of Puerto Rico points out in the article that follows, the causes of inflation and other price changes are far more complex than many realize. Since much of the political and press discussion of inflation tends to be simplistic, we thought this in-depth look at the problem would be helpful to your thinking about this troublesome issue.

Too much money chasing too few goods. That is a popular explanation for upward price changes still favored by some economists, investment advisors and securities brokers. Then there is the current political argument that it is not business, not labor, not the OPEC but the government which is to blame for inflation. Or the alternate version: "Government spending is out of control!"

Unfortunately, as far as I can make out, life seems to be more complicated. Now that we have entered full blast into an age of inflation, it seems like a good time to explore some of these complications.

Let us begin by admitting that even the "experts" disagree among themselves as to the causes of price changes and quite fiercely at that. Nonetheless, the leading monetarist economist, Dr. Milton Friedman, admits that the historical causes of monetary expansion in different periods are numerous and varied. And most economists who are not monetarists would probably agree that some change in the money supply is usually necessary to "support" or "validate" a change in prices caused by other factors.

~~In any case, historically speaking, prices are subject to considerable fluctuation about very long-term trend lines, which may be sloping upwards or downwards or may be flat.~~ This pattern, by itself, is strong evidence that a number of influences are at work. Let's take a look at the most important.

SHORT & MEDIUM-RUN CHANGES

The balance of payments

Countries which participate extensively in international trade and investments, as ours does today, sometimes run into "balance of payments" problems, such as "deficits on current account" and other odd sounding maladies. Now in its most basic form the balance of payments is simply two columns showing all the inflows and outflows during some period due to a country's transactions with the rest of the world. Moreover, an increase in liabilities to foreigners is shown as if it were an outflow of funds; an increase in foreigners' liability to one's country as an inflow. By definition, the balance is always in balance. The problems really arise due to the composition of that balance. For example, if the US consistently imports more than it exports, due to excessive crude oil imports, at some point foreigners will find themselves holding more dollars than they would like for purposes of trade or investment under then existing conditions.

At this point, one or more things can happen, as in fact they have during the past few years, with a considerable effect on domestic prices in the US.

First, a devaluation of the dollar may occur. That is, there is a general change in the rates of exchange between the dollar and the currency of its leading trading partners, so that a dollar "buys" fewer marks, yen, etc. than before. This is equivalent to an across-the-board price decrease for our exports and an across-the-board price increase for our imports. Foreigners can buy more in the US with a given amount of their own currency, Volkswagen Rabbits cost more in the US and (hopefully), in time, US exports will increase, because they are now cheaper and more competitive. (But, of course, the OPEC will raise crude prices, and the cost of our imports will increase again!). Meanwhile, the value of foreigners' dollar holdings will decrease, but only in proportion to the US rate of inflation if they spend them in the US. In any case, the short-run effect of a devaluation is inflationary, because of the lag in export growth and the fact that many imports will continue near their previous levels.

Second, measures may be taken in the US to make our country a more attractive place for foreigners to invest, e.g. last October the Federal Reserve Board raised interest rates and

took steps to curb the growth of the money supply. This immediately made the US more attractive for short-term investment and (hopefully) inspired confidence in our long-run will to fight inflation. However, raising a price (the rate of interest) so that other prices will not rise so fast is a little like setting fires to control a forest fire. A neat trick if you can do it, but its immediate effect is also inflationary. Needless to say, interest is the price of credit, and credit plays a major role in the sale of goods, such as autos, houses and business equipment.

This subject has endless ramifications, but you get the idea. Our business and political relations with other countries may cause things to happen to domestic prices which are quite different than what we would like to see happen considering domestic factors alone.

Escalator clauses

More than half the population of the US directly benefits from escalator clauses based on one of the two consumer price indices. A one percent increase in a CPI can trigger roughly a \$1 billion increase in individual incomes. Among the types of people covered are unionized workers, people on social security, federal retirees, food stamp recipients and children covered by the federal school lunch program. In addition, numerous business firms have escalator clauses written into agreements with customers and suppliers. Many electric utilities have "fuel adjustment" clauses in their rate schedules, so increases in fuel oil costs are automatically passed on to customers without the necessity of regulatory hearings.

Public deficits & surpluses

The effect that these have on prices depends on:

- how the deficit is financed
- the tax structure which gave rise to the surplus
- how the deficit is spent or the surplus invested
- and what is happening in the rest of the economy.

Deficits and surpluses affect prices directly, through their impact on interest rates and, indirectly, through their impact on the money supply. The

rate of change in the deficit or surplus is more important than its magnitude, or even which of the two it is. A declining deficit combined with economic growth, such as we have had in the past few years, is deflationary and has helped to bring about the present recession. Conversely, a surplus which increases much more slowly than the economy is inflationary. Moreover, one must look at the whole public sector, not just the "unified budget" of the federal government. At times in recent years, deficits at the federal and municipal levels have been largely counteracted by surpluses at the state level.

Public & corporate debt

When a large debt has been accumulated, most of it must be "rolled over" continually, i.e. refinanced as each obligation matures. And these refinancings will be large and frequent. That can cause serious problems in financial markets, especially when credit is tight and/or expensive. Some borrowers will "crowd out" others. This leads to higher interest rates and the postponement of worthy projects, with the ripple effects in terms of lost output, higher costs and higher prices. This sort of thing, rather than the level of the debt itself, is the real "burden" of a large domestic debt which is mostly in US hands. Our serious present problems in this regard are due to the accumulation of federal debt from the Vietnam period and the postponement of necessary projects due to failure to come to grips with the energy problem.

Market power

Economic organizations (or political organizations with economic power) which acquire or possess unusual market power can often bring about changes in prices or wages (a kind of price) to meet their internal objectives, regardless of conditions in the industry or the economy concerned. Examples are the OPEC, the Teamsters Union and the pharmaceutical companies. In those industries characterized by a "shared monopoly," one firm may act as a "price leader" and the others, without overt collusion, follow along in what the Supreme Court has called "conscious parallelism." Another pattern is for a firm with market power to "administer" prices by adjusting them so as to maintain its "target rate of return" on investment, or some other internal criterion. The evidence is not too clear as regard the existence of the latter but I am inclined to believe many prices are in fact administered.

Money supply

One of the annoying features of economics to laymen and women is that they "know" what money is, and economists don't. At least economists can't agree among themselves on a definition.

However, at the very least, "money" includes currency, plus balances in checking, NOW and similar US bank accounts belonging to individuals and non-financial corporations. And, regardless of definition, a change in the money supply can cause prices to change in the same direction, but not always.

For example, if the money supply contracts or grows very slowly when the economy is growing fast, interest rates will rise. And the growth of credit, output, incomes and consumption will be braked. Eventually interest rates and at least some prices will fall. However, many factors can limit the breadth and depth of the price decline, especially if the country is heavily involved with foreign trade or markets are quite imperfect.

Conversely, if the money supply grows faster than the economy, inflation is likely to result, with interest rates first falling and then rising. Again, this is not necessarily so. During the Great Depression, the US banks had plenty of excess lending capacity but interest rates were very low. It was not until World War II spurred the federal government to incur really big deficits that the economy used up its slack and really grew. And right now Austria has a large government deficit and a low rate of inflation.

In brief, in a decentralized economy, it is difficult to have inflation without an expansion of the money supply, but the latter does not mandate the former. And strong contraction of the money supply will depress the economy but not necessarily reduce prices.

Occupational justice

Intuitively, the average employee has a surprisingly rational concept of the differentials which should exist between the salaries or wages paid to different occupations and skill levels. In fact, the two major determinants of desired wage increases would seem to be recent changes in the CPI and the recent rate of wage increase in industries other than the one in which a person is working. A similar effect can be noted with firms in the same industry, when one firm is regarded as a "standard setter" for the industry. Moreover, wage increases granted in the same plant or office must maintain some approximation to "occupational justice" or considerable ill feeling may result. Woe betide the union leaders and plant managers who allow the wage gap between the skilled and unskilled to narrow too much!

Price changes

Price changes beget price and wage changes. Two reasons have already been mentioned: escalator clauses and occupational justice. Another reason is expectations about future price changes which affect the current behavior of business officials and consumers. For example: buy now, before it goes up in price.

One of the easiest and cheapest ways to form such expectations is simply to observe how prices have changed in the recent past. Both the direction of change and its steadiness are important. A change which appears to be short-lived may be ignored. One which appears to be predictable may produce less of a reaction than a slower one whose pattern or outcome is uncertain. Unfortunately, even the "experts" tend to misjudge future price trends. Fortunately, they tend to underestimate the frequency and strength of changes more than they overestimate them. However, if the "surprise" component of inflation is shockingly large, panicky behavior could ensue, as we have seen recently.

Business pricing policies

Where firms in the same industry have similar costs and customary markups, increases in the cost of inputs will be readily passed on to consumers, even when the industry is highly competitive. Where the markup is a percent of cost and there is little vertical integration, the input price increase will be magnified significantly by the time it reaches the consumer. Needless to say, traditional markups are very common in many economic sectors, e.g. with small retailers who buy from large wholesalers.

Regulation

While regulatory agencies are slow to act on requests for price increases and thus slow the impact of price changes, regulation itself often dulls competition and maintains the level of prices higher than they would be otherwise. Environmental and safety regulations often raise operating costs in the near term and therefore prices. The benefits come in future years, in the form of longer lives and lower medical costs, among others. The impact of the latter may be very great but also very diffuse in terms of the price system.

Supply & demand

To say that prices change because supply and/or demand changed is really to beg the question. Why did supply and/or demand change? In well developed markets, there exists a price at which most or all of what can be produced and is on hand will be sold. There will also exist other prices, at which customers would buy more or less and suppliers would provide more or less. But there is only one price, or a narrow range of prices, that will "clear the market" at a given moment, i.e. will move approximately the first quantity of goods or services. A change in supply or demand implies that the amounts that might be sold or bought at different prices have changed and that possibly the market will clear at different combinations of price and volume. But these are not autonomous

occurrences. They respond to other factors and are merely an convenient shorthand.

Nevertheless, when an entire economy changes course, or its rate of growth or decline changes markedly, these broad shifts can have markedly different effect on different industries. A given change in demand for final goods will have a greater effect on prices in the primary processing and raw materials industries than in the finished good industries. Prices in these latter industries tend to be much "stickier." And wages tend to be responsive to changes in the CPI and to recent wage increases, rather than to capacity rates, industry demand or unemployment rates, at least in the short run. Hence government efforts to combat inflation by braking economic growth work principally in a roundabout and slow manner.

Taxes

Changes in some taxes, such as excise taxes on gasoline, get passed on to consumers immediately, in the form of price changes. But changes in other taxes, such as the corporate income tax, get passed on only partially and/or over a period of years, depending on the industry, where we are in the business cycle, etc. To the extent that such taxes do get incorporated in the cost of a good or service (and in the very long run most of them probably do), changes in tax rates and the tax system also bring about changes in prices. Even substantial changes in personal income taxes can affect prices, by changing what people require to work for, or invest in, a particular business.

LONG-RUN CHANGES

Taste

Fads, whether for hula hoops, safari suits, disco music, tax shelters or tennis, often expand the potential market for related goods and services ahead of the growth of capacity and



hence supply. Prices rise until the fad wanes or too many suppliers enter the market. (Sometimes prices fall at first, as market growth permits economies of scale and lower costs.) If the market for the fad is significant and grows much faster than consumer purchasing power, something has to give. Sooner or later the sales and prices of some other goods or services will suffer, as consumer buying patterns shift. Undoubtedly the demand for collectibles in recent years is partly a fad and partly explains the failure of stock prices to reach expected levels.

Changes in lifestyles

A fundamental change in long-term life styles, such as mass automobile ownership, the American addiction to television, the move to the suburbs or shopping in shopping malls, has complex and profound effects on prices. On one hand, the mass market stimulates technological change, which may provide more for one's money, although not ~~at a low initial cost~~. The development of such a market also makes possible economies of scale, which lower costs or brake the increase in costs due to other causes, with consequent effects on prices. The change may also drive down the value and affect the prices of goods and service corresponding to competing life styles (e.g. the effect of TV on the price of popcorn in neighborhood theatres). At the same time, the new life style may create a dependence on the consumption of certain goods and services. (Consider the two-car family in the suburbs.) Thus our price index goes down (we get more value per dollar) but our cost of living goes up. (Our new life style has a higher minimum cost than the old.)

Economic and demographic growth

These can affect prices independently of how such growth comes about. By spreading fixed costs over more units and making it possible to use mass production are two obvious ways. However, they also affect prices in more subtle ways. Environmental problems may reach a critical threshold, requiring that their cost be recognized and incorporated into the price of the "guilty" product. The demand for goods and services formerly produced sporadically or in small quantities, as a sideline, so to speak, may grow to the point where people may specialize full time in their production, whether or not the stage of mass production is reached.

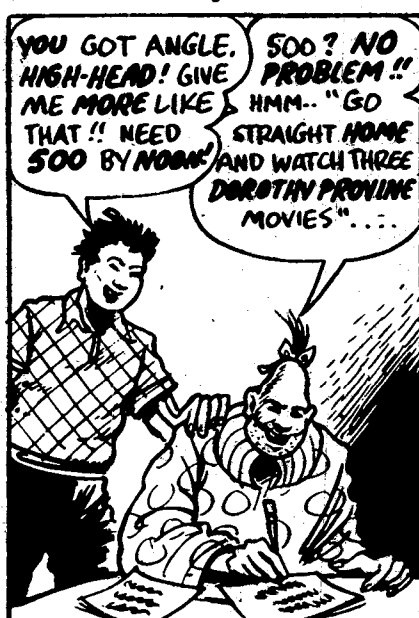
Frills, options and quality improvements

Much of the apparent rise in prices in the last decades is due, not to inflation, i.e. to a simple increase in the price of a well defined, unchanging good or service. It is due instead to the elaboration and complication of these goods and services, to such an extent that a good X which we buy today is a very different product from the good, also labelled X, which we bought twenty or even five years ago. A simple example is the automobile transmission. Once upon a time, the mechanical transmission was standard and the hydraulic transmission was optional. However, as the latter improved in quality it was chosen by more and more people, until it became standard equipment and the mechanical transmission was optional or not even offered. (Compacts are another story.) As a result, the initial cost of the car went up, but maintenance costs went down, performance improved (in some ways) and driving became less tiring. Was this an increase in prices and/or the cost of living? It certainly was for the driver who still wanted a mechanical transmission, but perhaps it was a decrease for other drivers. The

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latter certainly got more value for the dollar, especially after hydraulics could be produced on a mass scale. The same cannot be said, however, for some of the features which have been incorporated in car bodies, kitchen appliances, recreational equipment, etc. Sometimes the "more" we get for our money turns out to be less, and we get it whether we want it or not.

Some improvements are even harder to evaluate. Frozen food dishes obviously cost more than their natural ingredients. So they represent an increase in our cost of living even if the price per unit of value remains the same. Right? Well, not necessarily. Such dishes lower the manhours which we need to feed ourselves, i.e. it increases costs in manufacturing but decreases them in consumption. Moreover, by spending less time in the kitchen, we can enjoy more leisure or work more hours, earn more and buy more goods and services. Obviously, there is a tradeoff here which (a) doesn't get picked up in any price index, (b) depends on the individual affected and (c) can be positive or negative.

Technology

People usually think of technological improvements in terms of a machine which does a specific job more efficiently. But many technological improvements consist of new systems and methods, new products or some combination of all of these (Electricity is an example of the

latter). In the long run, technology and economies of scale feed on each other and have a very profound effect on prices, much more so than money, fiscal policy, escalators, etc. A few examples will suffice: mass production on the price of automobiles, semi-conductors on the price of computers and calculators, alternating current and transformers on the price of electricity. But at the same time technology drives down some prices, it can cause apparent or real inflation in others. Technology makes possible a lot of complicated products which didn't exist before. These products are produced by a lot of highly skilled specialist who want to be well paid. These high salaries and wages, plus the great productivity of the economy leads to higher wages for people (a) whose skills are low and (b) not improving, e.g. people who work in car washes. Naturally the products they make or services they provide increase in price. But unlike many other things, the car gets no cleaner than it used to.

Summing up

We don't buy many commodities any more (e.g. a sack of potatoes, a bag of flour, a bolt of cloth). We buy complex bundles of attributes, features and services, which may or may not have a product at their core. They may also be part of a system, whose components are paid for separately at other times and places, partially through prices, par-

tially through taxes. e.g. the automobile and highways. These bundles are produced through a complex interaction of human skills, capital assets and technology, whose effect on prices may run counter to, and be stronger than, the economic, fiscal and monetary currents of the moment.

We also get other bundles or simple services from the government, but usually pay for them indirectly, through the tax system. So much of the cost of these is factored into the cost of the bundles we buy from the private sector. And another cause of apparent inflation in the prices of the latter is the increasing number and variety of services which we demand from the government. This is true, paradoxically, whether or not these services are provided more efficiently or at a lower cost per unit of service than before.

A change in the price per physical unit of a good or service is not necessarily the same as a change in the cost per unit of value derived from these same goods and services. And a change in one of the foregoing is not necessarily the same as change in the cost of living of a particular person. People's cost of living depends not only on what they buy, but on the direct taxes which they pay and on their values and lifestyle.



Body Beat

• HISTORIAN W. J. RORABAUGH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON says that Americans during the period between 1790 and 1840 drank more than twice as much liquor as Americans do today. Our forebears, says Rorabaugh, though alcohol was nutritious and healthy. The average man imbibed nearly a half-pint a day and drunkenness among respectable people such as judges, doctors and members of Congress was not only accepted but expected. The preferred drinks were rum and whiskey.

• THE MORE RUNNERS RUN, the worse their love lives become. At least that's the finding of a poll of 345 male and female runners, aged 15 to 57, in the Boston area. Researchers found that runners who average more than 70 miles a week were far more likely to have marital problems than occasional or moderate runners. Nearly half the heavy runners questioned in the survey admitted that their partners felt neglected. In forty percent of the cases, the friction from running was serious enough to lead to a break-

up. Those polled linked running to such problems as disagreements about children, loss of shared friends, changes in sexual activity, neglecting work and fatigue. Some said their spouses complained that all they could talk about was running. The study, however, also indicated that in smaller doses, running doesn't seem to have any harmful effects. Marital problems cropped up for only one percent of runners who jogged as little as four miles per week.

• TWO CLEVELAND physicians report they have been diagnosing a new "junk food disease" -- an affliction similar to beriberi -- that has been striking American adolescents. Doctors Derick Lonsdale and Ryamond Shamberger say that they studied 20 Ohio teenagers biochemically after the adolescents came down with severe vitamin B-1 deficiencies. The diets of all 20 of the teens consisted almost entirely of high-calorie, but often nutritionally deficient sugar-laden drinks, pastries, candy, and snack foods

such as potato chips and pretzels. The junk food eater commonly exhibited pronounced personality changes, usually becoming highly aggressive and irritable. Some of them reportedly suffered abdominal or chest pains, as well as restlessness, lack of sleep, and frightening dreams.

• JOHN CACIOPPE of Notre Dame says the way to increase your ability to think more clearly is to speed up your heart rate. Cacioppe reports that he administered multiple choice and verbal tests to 38 of his heart patients while their hearts were beating at two different speeds. The hearts of all the subjects were regulated by pacemakers. In one instance they beat 72 times a minute, while in the second instance the heart rates were increased to 88 beats a minute. Cacioppe says his patients attained significantly higher grades when their hearts were beating faster.

S

Turning Back the Clock, Or Stepping Ahead?

The Controversy Surrounding Black English



By Pernell Harrison

There is a striking scene in the much heralded television production of "Roots" where the avuncular fiddler attempts to instruct Kunta Kinte in the rudiments of English.

Millions watched as a wide-eyed Kinte learned new names for scores of objects in his new environment, as fiddler, in an ostinato matter, carried him through drill after drill in an effort to replace the linguistic patterns and verbal concepts of his native West African tongue.

In the television production, the scene concluded happily with the young Kinte learning his lesson and choruses of joyous music. But, for millions of blacks living in the U.S., the learning of the English language has not followed lines very similar to that Hollywood script.

The social progress of blacks is often directly associated with the progress achieved by blacks in education. Almost on a daily basis, reports are heard that blacks and other minority students are not performing on the same level as most of their white counterparts.

Many trace the blame for this shortcoming direct to problems encountered by many blacks in learning and displaying the correct use of the English language.

A recent court ruling has once again catapulted the controversy into the headlines. A federal court rendered a decision in favor of 11 black students in their claim that the school system in Ann Arbor, Mich. had unfairly classified them as slow learners. While a court ruling on student classification, in and of itself is not an earth-shaking legal decision, a court ruling citing the students' use of black English as the basis for that incorrect classification, does make the case very important, not

only for the 11 students in Ann Arbor, but millions of other black students around the country.

Equally important to the court's finding in favor of the students was the remedy ordered by the court to correct the problem.

Judge Charles W. Joiner ordered that all 28 teachers (three are black) at the school attended by the plaintiff students, the Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary, which has an 80 percent white student population, take a special 20-hour course, at a cost of \$42,000 to the school district, designed to increase the teacher's sensitivity to black English.

At the center of the controversy is the issue of black English and how it should be handled by school districts and what effect these plans will have on teachers.

But, just what is black English?

J.L. Dillard, a noted linguist, whose testimony figured in the decision rendered in the Ann Arbor case, briefly defined black English as a separate and distinct linguistic system, spoken by about 80 percent of the blacks living in the U.S., containing its own grammar and syntax. He traced the development of black English to its roots in the pidgin English developed during the infamous African slave trade which was no doubt taught to hundreds of thousands slaves and descendants.

While not labeled as black English in the past, the matter of speaking is familiar to many teachers. The gordian difficulty facing educators lies in their response to the use of black English by students.

The essence of the debate over black English lies in the answer to the question of whether or not black English represents a learning barrier or a learning failure for the children who speak it. Or, whether it is an appropriate means of

stimulating learning in the classroom or a sign of ignorance or thickheadedness.

In his ruling, Judge Joiner in effect took the position that black English is not a mistaken version of standard English, but a separate and distinct linguistic system requiring special attention by school authorities.

Just why should students using black English get any more attention other than correcting their speech?" ask many teachers.

Perhaps one answer is posed by Susan W. Masland of the University of Wisconsin, writing in the *Journal of Teacher Education* (March-April 1979) "Responses to black dialect have included rigorous efforts to eradicate it, to replace it with standard English, to deny its validity, even to attack it as the result of sloppy thinking and questionable intelligence.

"A growing body of linguists and researchers claim considerable evidence for the argument that the teacher's response to dialect is a powerful determinant of whether or not a particular child will learn in that teacher's classroom," writes Masland.

She claims that correcting what the teacher perceives as random errors as the child attempts to speak, write, or read could have very negative effects. Among which she notes are prompting the child to believe that he or she is in an hostile environment and simply speak less. This is, according to Masland, viewed by many teachers as another example of incompetency or obstinacy.

Another negative effort could be the unconscious lowering of expectations for a child speaking black English, thus negatively altering the learning environment for that child or group of children.

This view is supported by the members of the black caucus of the

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National Council of Teachers of English. In a policy statement issued for the caucus by Dr. Vivian I. Davis, she stated, "The black English language system of itself is not a barrier to learning. The barrier is negative attitudes toward the language system, lack of information about the system, inefficient techniques for teaching language skills, and an unwillingness to adapt teaching styles to student learning needs."

However, the concept is not without its critics, as well as supporters. Writing in the *Midwest Quarterly*, Christopher Clausen points to one result of the increase of the concept of allowing students to express themselves in their own language forms would be that "elite" schools would become the only ones teaching standards English while the public schools and community colleges would abandon the attempt. Dooming its students to a second class linguistic citizenship.

Clausen objections to the side, the National Council of Teachers of English does not follow his dim view of the push for an awareness of black English among teachers.

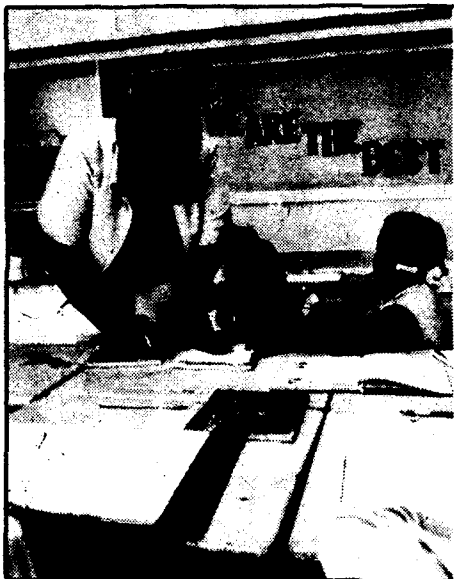
According to John Maxwell, deputy executive director of the council, the Ann Arbor decision will have a "beneficial effect" on the teaching of English. He stated the publicity afforded black English as a result of the Ann Arbor decision will help to raise people's consciousness about the issue.

"Teachers have to be more sensitive to acts which look down on student's languages," Maxwell said. He pointed to the document "The Students Right to their Own Language," a position statement adopted by the council several years ago as the reason for NCTE support of the Ann Arbor ruling.

The statement says in part, "We [NCTE] affirm the students' right to their own patterns and varieties of language—the dialects of their nurture or whatever dialects in which they find their identity and style. . . . The claim that any one dialect is unacceptable amounts to an attempt of one social group to exert its dominance over another. . . . We affirm strongly that teachers must have the experiences and training that will enable them to respect diversity and uphold the right of students to their own language."

However, Maxwell noted that the council's position was not universally popular among all its members and that the policy statement had been refined recently to deal mostly with spoken language.

School board members from districts around the country seem to have taken a hard line on the question of teaching standard English. In August of last year,



"The black English language system of itself is not a barrier to learning. The barrier is negative attitudes toward the language system"



According to Marcia Whiteman, head of the language studies program, many black teachers around the country do not seem to be in league with the positions taken by either the NCTE or its black caucus.

She is cited in the *Washington Post* as saying, many middle-class black school-teachers often refuse to have any "truck" with black English. As a result, she says, many black teachers thus lean toward the extreme position of "eradicationists," as opposed to the "separatist." She added that some white teachers unfortunately, are merely confused not even realizing that they are dealing with a dialect.

John Chambers, a research associate at NIE, who is involved in the language studies program, says the program will be conducting additional research into the subject of black English and that a second seminar is slated for sometime in the spring.

One of the main jobs of those supporting teachers being made aware of black English lies in correcting some major misconceptions about black English.

"The main misconception," said Chambers, "is that people are calling for students to be taught in black English or taught black English. The goal of the Ann Arbor suit was to help students learn to read standard English and the method of correction indicated by the court was not to force teachers to teach using black English, but simply be aware of the existence of the dialect and use it in the teaching of standard English."

Looking to the future, Chambers predicts that other school districts will begin to institute black English sensitivity programs for their teachers, as they are demanded by the parents of children attending schools in those districts.

One large school system which has been quietly developing and instituting a plan is Chicago.

Since 1965, Chicago schools have been sponsoring a program designed to help teach black students to read without "putting down" the language they speak at home. Called the Psycholinguistics Reading Series, the program has two objectives. First, to provide an effective approach to the teaching of beginning reading to Afro-American children whose language patterns differ in some basic aspects from those employed in traditional basal readers.

And second, to help the child maintain and further develop positive attitudes towards himself, his school and his community through the reading materials. Throughout the series, each unit contains two versions of the same story. The *everyday talk* version corresponds to the children's oral language patterns. For each *everyday talk* story, there is a corresponding story called the *school talk* story. The *school talk* story is the same in all respects except that the verb form is changed to correspond to the standardized dialect.

The news concerning the Ann Arbor decision will soon disappear from the front pages of the country's major papers, no longer be heard over the nation's airwaves and will vanish from U.S. news magazines. But, the problem of teaching black children to read, which has been here since the first ancestor of Kinte was bound into slavery and transported to the Western Hemisphere, remains.

And whether or not the approach ordered by the court becomes a modern day rosetta stone for the deciphering the mysteries of teaching reading to black children remains a question which is yet unanswered.

the *American School Board Journal* conducted a poll on the use of other than standard English in schools. Sixty-nine percent of those responding to the survey indicated that they opposed the use of anything other than standard English in their districts.

The subject of black English has become a major topic of the nation's columnists as well.

Judy Beck, writing in the *Chicago Times*, says "It is essential that black children learn to use standard English fluently. Regardless of the etymological derivations or emotional appeal of black English, it is not the language of the professions, of technical manuals, books, newspapers, government forms or job applications."

Perhaps the strongest print condemnation of black English has come from black newspaper, radio and television commentator Carl T. Rowan, who says "What black children need is an end to this malarkey that tells them they can fail to develop vocabularies, ignore syntax and embrace the mumbo-jumbo of ignorance—and dismiss it in the name of 'black pride'."

He continued, "If I had my way, every teacher who instructs black children would require them to read a newspaper and watch a television news show everyday—plus read at least one news magazine a week."

"That teacher would hammer into the heads of those black youngsters an understanding that 'black pride' is enhanced when you know more about what's going on than someone else, or when you can orate and use our national language the way Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or Whitney Young or Mary McLeod Bethune or Rev. Jesse Jackson and others have used it."

"It is lunacy for black adults to ask courts to 'sanctify' linguistic failure by pretending it is a separate language and to delude youngsters into believing they can make it through life on 'black English,'" said Rowan, in one of national radio broadcasts.

In a follow up broadcast on the same topic, Rowan commented, "What we

need is a massive allocation of teachers and resources to remedial programs to teach black children to speak, read and write the language of their native land."

Otherwise, millions of black youngsters will be doomed to linguistic separatism. And that would guarantee that they will never 'make it' in the larger U.S. society."

Noted *Washington Post* William Raspberry columnist, takes a different view of the controversy. "Judge Joiner's basic ruling, for all the misapprehensions, misconceptions and ridicule that have surrounded the case, makes some sense."

"It seems reasonable to warn teachers against misinterpreting speech patterns or test scores of the children they teach. Some speech patterns—mis-handling of certain diphthongs, or the dropping copulative verbs of final consonants, for instance—may indicate speech defects or even learning disability in a child whose home language is standard English. . . . The same patterns in children whose home language is 'black English' may indicate nothing pathological whatever."

Raspberry continued citing statements made by Gabe Kaimowitz, the attorney for the plaintiffs in the Ann Arbor case. "The case is really about teaching children to read" he insists. "It is not an 'accident' that King is an elementary school. If these children had been in high school, I wouldn't have brought the suit."

"What we are talking about is teaching children to read without turning them off, without teachers deciding on the basis of their speech patterns, that they cannot learn."

He continued to cite Kaimowitz, "I want children to learn to speak standard English, of course. The schools have to see to it that they learn it. But the first thing is to teach them to read."

"What makes me nervous is my fear that some teachers will misinterpret what has happened in Ann Arbor to mean that there is no need to insist that children learn standard English," wrote Raspberry.



"It is lunacy for black adults to ask courts to 'sanctify' linguistic failure by pretending it is a separate language"

PAUL KRASSNER PREDICTS!

• Most of the American hostages will be released by the Iranian government. They will be perfectly normal and have no adverse reactions to their months of confinement. In fact, some of them will voluntarily return to live at the embassy in Tehran.

• A supermarket clerk will be arrested for selling toilet paper cardboard cylinders as drug paraphernalia.

• Special legislation will be passed to allow Cuban refugees to be drafted into the US Army without becoming citizens first.

• "The Six O'Clock Follies" will have a strong influence on the next war; all combat troops will be supplied with laugh tracks for the battlefield.

• Congress will decide to deal with our national debt by simply cancelling it, inasmuch as that will screw the fewest number of people in the process.

• Hunting rats with a bow and arrow will become a popular urban sport.

• Pink Floyd's album, "The Wall," will become required listening in high school music appreciation course. English teachers will insist that the lyrics be changed to "We don't need any education/ We don't need any thought control. . ."

• Patented molecules designed to eat oil spills will accidentally gobble up the entire board of directors of the Exxon Corporation.

• Steve McQueen and Clint Eastwood will engage in an actual shootout with loaded guns on a Hollywood set. Both men will be wounded in the leg. Nick Nolte will serve as a peacemaker, persuading them to enter a sack race for charitable purposes.

• Marijuana crops in northern Oregon will be greatly enhanced by hot ash fallout from Mount St. Helens. This grass will be known in the trade as "Summer of Lava."

• Cyrus Vance will reveal that the fix was in -- that the attempted rescue of American hostages in Iran was deliberately thrown -- in order to enable Jimmy Carter to come out of the Rose Garden without starting World War III.

• Walter Cronkite will begin his newscasts with "This is Day _____ of my not being John Anderson's running mate. . ."



The National Action Guide

In which we continue our guide to national activist organizations and the alternative media, beginning with a listing of more international affairs and peace groups. You may obtain a copy of our complete listing by sending three dollars to the DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009.

INTERNATIONAL & PEACE CONT'D

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AFRICARE 1424 16th St. NW DC 20036
AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA 305 East 46th St. 17th floor NYC NY 10017
PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE PO Box 3169 Columbus, Ohio 43210
INDOCHINA RESOURCES CENTER 1322 18th St. NW DC 20036
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY 120 Maryland Ave. NE DC 20002 202-544-4666.
Research group which publishes studies of arm trade, international finance and development policies. Analyzes how these issues affect US human rights policies

COALITION FOR A NEW FOREIGN & MILITARY POLICY 120 Md. Ave. NE DC 20002 HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNET 1502 Ogden St. NW DC 20010 202-462-4320.
ASIA CENTER 198 Broadway NYC NY 10038
FRIENDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE 110 Maryland Ave. NE DC 20002
NORTH AMERICAN COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA 475 Riverside Drive NYC NY 10027

CAMPAIGN TO STOP BANKLOANS TO SOUTH AFRICA 198 Broadway NYC NY 10038
SOUTHERN AFRICAN CATALYST PROJECT Box 177 Amherst MA 01022
TRANS-AFRICA 1325 18th St. NW DC 20036
WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA 110 Maryland Ave. NE DC 20002
AMERICANS FOR SALT 324 Forth St. NE DC 20002

202-547-8030
ARMS CONTROL ASSOCIATION 11 Dupont Circle NW DC 20036
202-797-6450.

INSTITUTE FOR WORLD ORDER 1140 Ave. of the Americas NYC NY 10036
TAPOL/USATAPOL USA PO Box 609 Montclair NJ 07042
UNION OF DEMOCRATIC THAIS PO BOX 1036 Langley Park Md. 20787
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~~CHILE LEGISLATIVE CENTER 601 Mass Ave. NE DC 20002~~
EPICA 1740 Irving St. NW DC 20010.

Deals with Carribean and Central American issues.
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NATIONAL NETWORK IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE 1322 18th NW DC 20036

NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESS ON LATIN AMERICA 464 19th St. Oakland CA 94612
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CENTER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES 122 Maryland Ave. NE DC 20002

LABOR

COALITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS 1010 Vermont Ave. NW DC
COALITION OF LABOR UNION WOMEN 15 Union Square NYC NY 10003
212-777-5330

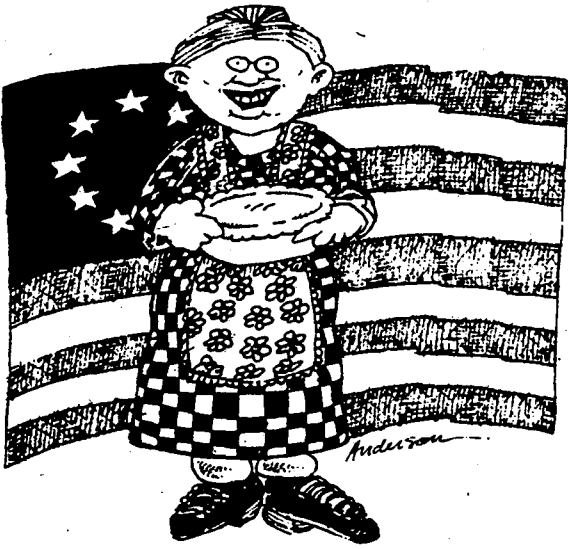
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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA 1725 Eye St. NW (2nd floor) DC 20006

LEGAL

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GRASSROOTS CITIZEN DISPUTE RESOLUTION CLEARINGHOUSE 4401 Fifth Ave. Pittsburgh Pa. 15213 412-621-3050
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NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD 853 Broadway #1705 NYC NY 10003
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE 1346 Conn. Ave. NW DC 20003
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COMMITTEE FOR THE SUIT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT PO Box 254 P.S. Station NYC NY 10009

TO BE CONTINUED



Apple Pie

• Federal officials say that Florida would suffer a serious economic blow if the United States could halt the expanding cocaine market in the US. The Drug Enforcement Administration estimates that three-fourths of all the coke entering the US comes through Florida -- with a street value of over \$10 billion a year. The journal of the Addiction Research Foundation reports that numerous Florida banks have become dependent on the illicit coke market. One federal official told the publication that the real estate market in the state would "fall flat" if cocaine traffic were suddenly halted, because a high percentage of purchases of land and houses involve money stemming from the cocaine trade.

• How does one visualize one part in a trillion? Think of it as one flea to 360,000 elephants or one second in 320 centuries, a pinch of salt on 10,000 potato chips or one misspelling on all the front pages of 2000 newspapers published daily since the beginning of the printing press. This information comes to us from Dow Chemical of Canada. We aren't certain why they want us to know, but we'll bet you 360,000 elephants to one flea it has to do with some of the products they make.

• Heroin addicts in New York City have started stealing sewer covers. Fourteen of the 150-pound iron covers disappeared in one recent fortnight. The addicts get only \$4.50 for each cover and it costs the city \$125 apiece to replace them, not to mention possible lawsuits from myopic pedestrians.

• A motorists' organization, TRIP (that's the Road Information Program) has awarded the state of Maine its Pothole Prize. According to TRIP Maine has 108 potholes per paved mile of road. Says the state's acting transportation commissioner, "My personal reaction is that they're being a little over-dramatic."

• If you're want a new career and don't have a college education, you might look into the Duke Power Company's nuclear operations in the Carolinas. According to a recent ad, you can get a job as a "nuclear power plant operator" with a high school diploma and one year of algebra. Applicants will get a year's training in math, chemistry and physics "which you need not have previously studied."

• You can drop that cliché about courses in underwater basket weaving. The University of South Florida is offering a course in frisbee. You get a two hour physical education credit and students are tracked by skill level. Instructors point out that frisbee tossing provides "cardiovascular fitness, kinesthetic awareness and body coordination."

• The US Air Force is accepting bids to "maintain and refine the JOVIAL Language Control Facility." Bidders must be able to "convert, rehost and maintain a Jovial database, assist government agencies on JOVIAL compiler producement, maintain an expertise in the JOVIAL language" and "prepare and distribute a bi-monthly newsletter." We think it has something to do with putting more life into the President's campaign but we're not sure.

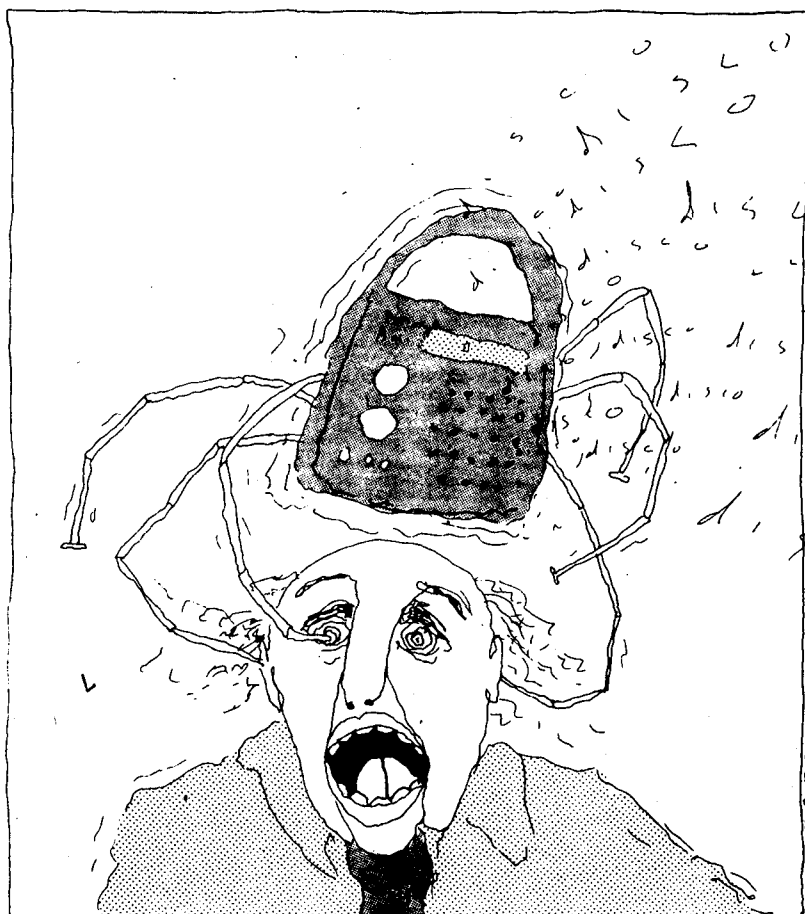
• You may recall a letter a couple of months back that described an intelligence-reducing gas that was allegedly released in New York City in 1969. Wrote Risto Marttinen, government agents decided that "New York City would be the ideal site because the side effects would be least noticable there." We had

assumed the letter was satirical, but now we are not so sure. The Washington Post recently reported that the Army sprayed "harmless bacteria directly onto New York subway riders in a 1966 test."

"The commuters," wrote George Lardner Jr., "paid little attention, the Army said, which concluded that subway systems were ripe targets for 'covert biological attack.'"

• The folks at Woodbridge Press (Santa Barbara CA 93111) have come out with a book of recipes for using local beetles, mealworms, crickets and other bugs to make stuff like "Chirping Stuffed Avacados" "Honey Bee Granola Bars" and "Cricket Louis." In case you're interested Entertaining With Insects only costs \$3.95.

• A group of students at Arizona State University, as part of an experiment for their courtship and marriage class, were asked by sociology professor John Hudson to care for a fresh egg for a week -- 24 hours a day. The professor said he wanted, "to give my students some feeling of what it means to be responsible for someone besides themselves." The students picked out their egg children from a local supermarket and dubbed them such names as Eggbert, Humpty, and Benedict. The students were told that, like an infant, their egg could never be left alone, and that if they wanted to go out, they would have to find an egg sitter. Hudson reports that some couples in the experiment actually had fights over who would take care of the egg and that a number of students, both single and in couples, said they just weren't ready to be parents.



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NEW YORK TIMES BOOK OF HOUSE PLANTS. The NYT gives you the way to keep the inside of your house green. \$3.96

BASIC SOCCER GUIDE: A fine book on the game that would make an ideal present for a young soccer player or anyone wanting to refresh their skills. \$2.45

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MEATLESS MEALS FOR VEGETARIANS AND WOULD BE VEGETARIANS: Now in its tenth printing, this handy little volume offers a variety of fine recipes. \$1.95

DISCO DANCING: Step-by-step guide with photographs and diagrams. If you have to do it here is how. \$4.95

EVERY ROOM A GARDEN: How to decorate your home with plants. Where to put them, how to care for them, how to light them, what to do when things go wrong. Over 300 illustrations. \$6.95

BOYSCOUT FIELDBOOK: This is a handy book for anyone taking to the outdoors. More than 1200 wilderness skills and activities discussed. \$4.95.

JUMP ROPE!: Rope lore, jumping for your health, all the rope games, rope rhymes and much more in this excellent book. \$3.95.

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TOYBOOK: Turtle racers, moustaches and more than 50 other good toys to make with children. \$4.95.

STICKS AND STONES AND ICE CREAM CONES: Crafts in a child's world. Lovely things to make by hand. Games and happenings and celebrations. Playthings from other lands. How to plan parties plus a full length play with costume and set designs. \$4.95.

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THE KID'S KITCHEN TAKEOVER: How to mess around, cook up a storm and start your own bread business, too. Over 120 things to cook, make, grow, and do in and out of the kitchen. \$5.95.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO TELL US WHEN YOU MOVE

Higher fares & more consultants

Metrorail fares go up from 45 cents to 55 cents for trips less than three miles in length effective July 1. Non-rush hour fares will stay the same, fifty cents, thus ending Washington's distinction of being one of the few cities that charged more for non-rush hour trips than those during drive time. Metro-bus fares will go from 50 to 55 cents during rush hours and from 40 cents to 50 cents during non-rush hours. It is expected that the fare

increases will raise an additional \$7 million, reducing Metro's runaway deficit by 6%. Based on previous experience, it seems likely that the system will also lose about four percent of its riders as a result.

Meanwhile, Metro has decided to try to figure out what's wrong with its bus system. It will spend \$75,000 on the consultants' report. Many of the problems with the bus system appear to be obvious to all but the Metro board and staff: an extraordinary number of confusing routes, lack of adequate information on bus signs, no map of the system, erratic performance, failure to maintain schedules etc. Others are less obvious: failure to give buses adequate right-of-way on the street, thereby slowing down the vehicles and raising the deficit; deliberate diversion of bus traffic to fill the

City officials estimate it will cost a half a billion dollars over the next decade and a half to bring the city's streets and bridges up to snuff. According to studies, the Key Bridge is the worst in town with a score of 6.4 on the federal sufficiency scale of 100.

city's underused subway system; and lack of a coherent, logical system of routes.

While it shouldn't cost \$75,000 to find all this out again, it is nice to see some attention to the bus system. Although you would never know it from reading the papers, 70% of the Metro ridership takes the bus, yet they are treated as the orphans of the system.

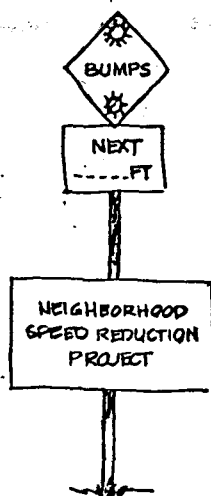
Trends. . .

A report from the Greater Washington Research Center finds that a decelerating rate of growth was coupled with an accelerating rate of change in virtually all attributes of the population of the metropolitan area during the 1970s. As a result, the area enters the 1980s with a population that is not much larger than it was a decade ago—but it differs sharply from the population of 1970 in virtually every other respect. Among the changes found are these:

- Between 1970 and 1977 the area population grew less than six percent.
 - Growth in the number of households also slowed but did not drop off nearly as much.
 - The decline in the number of children under 5 speeded up during the decade.
 - All age groups over 15 years continued to increase. The most rapid growth was registered by the 25-34 year-old category of young adults.
 - The area's population of races other than black or white, including people from Southeast Asia, increased rapidly throughout the decade.
 - There was a decreasing concentration of blacks in the District. By 1977, only about 57 percent of all blacks in the Washington area lived in the city, compared to 76 percent when the decade began. Blacks, however, still comprised 71 percent of the city's population as they had when the decade began.
 - The proportion of persons who had never been married rose as did the proportion of those who had been divorced.
 - Average household size declined sharply through the decade while households with only one or two persons registered heavy growth.
 - Household incomes continued to rise sharply and by 1977 almost one area household in five received an income of \$35,000 or more. The number of high-income households increased at a faster rate in the city than in the area as a whole between 1974 and 1977.
- The report is available from the Greater Washington Research Center, 1717 Mass Ave. NW, Suite 403, DC 20036. Phone: 387-0900.

Speed bumps at last

Over the years, the Department of Transportation has firmly rejected all citizen requests to install traffic bumps on streets subject to speeding. Now, with little fanfare, DOT has begun plans to



experiment with speed bumps on 46th Street NW between River Road and Massachusetts Ave., a neighborhood street that carries about 10,000 vehicles a day. According to DOT, "This street was chosen for the experimental speed reduction project because of the concerns regarding traffic the residents have expressed to the department." The bumps -- eight of them -- will be about 4 inches high and from 10 to 12 feet in length. They will be marked with horizontal strips and warning signs. The bumps will be tested for a year.

In its announcement, DOT says "Visual devices such as speed limit signs have only a limited effectiveness as they require constant police surveillance." That's a quote, folks, so you might want to copy it down for future reference. DOT then goes on to state that "Recently physical devices have been designed to remind drivers they are on residential streets by making speeds above the legal limit uncomfortable.

The speed bumps are one such device."

Now that DOT has discovered speed bumps, we suggest neighborhood activists unobtrusively test them out when they are installed, probably sometime this fall. Write your comments to George Jivatode, Chief of Technical Services, Office of Transportation Policies and Plans at room 519, 415 12th St. NW, DC 20004.

Only 59% of all DC parking tickets are settled or paid.

RHODES CONTINUED....

Older "out of scale" buildings are described as bad dental work. If the "missing tooth" prescription were applied elsewhere, Boston and Philadelphia would be in for massive, federally mandated orthodontic surgery.

Meanwhile, the indefatigable Joe Grano, who has been leading the fight to save the tavern from Oliver Carr and the city government, claims that saving the Rhodes and the facades of the two nearby bank buildings (which are already slated to be preserved) would still produce a return for Carr well above the normal 12%. This is based on a study by Harry Vonk of Centaur Associates.

Also last month, the council's environmental committee voted to close an alley in the disputed block, thus claring one more obstacle to Carr's development. Ward Three residents should note that among those voting, in effect, for the destruction of Rhodes Tavern was Polly Shackleton.

The neighborhoods

DUPONT CIRCLE

• T. Mezzanotte, who has already almost emptied three apartment buildings on New Hampshire Avenue has now sent notices to tenants of 1737 New Hampshire saying he needs the place for "personal use."

• The Kingman's Boys Club can provide help with household and yard chores. Call them at 483-3360.

• Concern is growing that developers are ready to move on the Sumner and Magruder school sites. Sumner School was the first public school for black children in the city and when its roof partially caved in some months ago funds were allocated for its repair but so far the GSA has done nothing.

• The Board of Zoning Adjustment has approved a chancery use at 1785 Mass. Ave. despite opposition from the Dupont Circle Neighborhood Commission.

• Supporters of a proposed Shaw/Dupont Circle Community Center in the old Jewish Community Center at 16th & Que are pressing for rehab funds (now before Congress) and

preparing a plan of activities to submit to the Recreation Department. If you would like to help call Dale Hudelson at 234-6630 (w) or 234-5145 (h)

• The Board of Education has voted to formally close the Magruder School effective this month. Two other Ward Two schools will be closed a year from now, Randall and Syphax in SW.

• An application has been filed by William and Peter Calomiris for a special exception to convert an apartment house to a hotel at 1727 Mass. Ave. NW. The Dupont Circle Neighborhood Commission is fighting the plan.

LOGAN CIRCLE

• The Logan Circle Community Association is holding a poster contest for the Third Annual Logan Circle House Tour. Anyone may enter, and designs must be submitted by June 30 to compete for the cash awards. All entries will be exhibited during the House Tour, Dec. 7. Info: Tom Zikowski, 234-0889.

CAPITOL HILL

• Parents and staff at Logan Community School are fighting a last ditch battle to save their institution, which, along with Giddings, is scheduled to close as part of the school system budget cutbacks. Logan supporters have obtained over 1000 signatures in support of keeping the school open. To help call Ms. A. Moss, 724-4701/2/3.

• The city has approved residential permit parking for the following blocks: 500 block of 7th NE, 300 block of 12th NE, 900 blocks of 2nd and 3rd SE, 200-300 blocks of Eye SE, 200 block of K SE, 400 block of L SE, and the 300 block of Virginia Ave. SE.

• George Shelton, proprietor of the popular Shelton's Marketbasket at 500 12th St. SE is now in business at a second location, 8th & C NE. The store had been abandoned by Safeway just as his former premises were given up by A&P. Shelton received help from the Economic Development Administration, the Small Business Administration and the Greater Washington Business Center. Shelton worked for the Kroger Company for eleven years and then struck out on his own. He is on the advisory board of the Capitol Children's Museum and was named Small Businessman of the Year last year by the SBA and the Greater Washington Business Center.

THE DC BOOKSHELF

WHO TAKES OUT THE GARBAGE IN DC? A monograph on local solid waste management by Neil Seldman former director of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. \$1

WASHINGTON: Constance Green's Pulitzer Prize-winning two volume history of Washington is now available in paperback for only 7.50 The basic book on DC history.

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SECRET CITY: Constance Green's history of black Washington. A highly readable trip through the city's black past. \$3.50.

HEALING RESOURCES: A comprehensive guide to alternative therapy, preventative medicine and holistic health practices in the area. \$5.95

ANSWERS: Susan Meehan's widely praised guide to community resources in DC. Where to go for help, how to deal with various problems etc. Truly useful. Send \$4.95

STATEHOOD T-SHIRT: Light blue with dark blue lettering. Reads "End Capital Punishment. Support DC Statehood." "DC Gazette" in small letters below. State size: S.M. \$4.75 (25178)

STATEHOOD BUMPER STICKER: Same legend as above. \$2.50 (251782)

WASHINGTON'S MOST FAMOUS MURDER STORIES: Tom Kelly's collection of tales of some of the city's most famous murders. Was \$3.95 now only \$2.35 (101781)

NON-SMOKERS GUIDE TO WASHINGTON: How to get around town without coughing. \$1.50 (591)

GOING PLACES WITH CHILDREN: Green Acre's School guide to planning successful trips in the area with children. 20% off at \$2. (2071)

CAPTIVE CAPITAL: Sam Smith tells the story of non-federal Washington. "Not only well worth reading, but it is the best book we are likely to read on Washington," - Bryce Nelson of the LA Times. "An excellent gift," - Bill Raspberry in the Washington Post. "Must reading," - Afro American. "A joy to read" - Robert Cassidy in the Chicago Tribune. \$10 500-4-1

BOSS SHEPHERD AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS: The fascinating tale of DC's only true political boss and perhaps the most controversial figure in local history. \$3 (30-18-1)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: David Lewis's interesting bicentennial history of the Capitol city. \$9.95

YESTERDAY'S WASHINGTON: A photographic history of our city that all lovers of DC will want to have. 20% off at \$7.95. (15-17-2)

JOHN WIEBENSON'S MAP OF WASHINGTON: Drawn for the bicentennial and now available for 40% off. \$1.50 (500-76-1)

FACTORY OUTLET GUIDE TO DC, MD & VA: How to get things cheaply around here. \$2.95

TOWPATH GUIDE TO THE C&O: Georgetown-Seneca. 40% off. \$1.80.

ZOO BOOK: Photo-filled book on what's in the National Zoo and how it's cared for. 60% off list price. \$2

C&O OLD PICTURE ALBUM: 40% off list price. \$2.95



Roses & Thorns

• **ROSES TO THE LATINO AFFAIRS OFFICE** for its survey of the residents of Adams-Morgan and Mount Pleasant. If this small agency can conduct a neighborhood survey of this sort, it could be done by the city elsewhere, providing valuable data about what is happening to our neighborhoods in between the ten-year census reports.

• **ROSES TO THE BARRY ADMINISTRATION** for doing something solid about infant mortality. The infant death rate in the city dropped 25 percent in 1979. Part of the reason was better public information, improvement in the referral of patients, better hospital records, federal funding for improved record-keeping, expanded nutritional information to expectant and new mothers, and improved follow-up services.

• **THORNS TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS** for its new sign-in sheets used during the last elections. The sheets, on endless computer paper, made finding voters names a tedious and time-consuming business that created bottlenecks at the voting places.

• **THORNS TO MARION BARRY** who is reportedly trying to institute new security procedures for the city's financial computer. The idea is to permit only persons with a "need to know" access to specific departmental data. Further, the mayor would be able to determine who had asked what of the computer. One of the advantages of the new computer system is that the financial affairs of the various agencies are now open to other governmental officials' eyes. This builds in a certain amount of self-policing, making agencies less likely to engage in financial tricks of one sort or another. The mayor, however, apparently upset by leaks, wants to close up the system again.

• **THORNS TO UDC** for its faculty "open space" policy. Several departments at UDC are being moved to the Van Ness campus in the fall. The university plans to stick faculty in a big open space office. Says one member of the faculty: "This will, essentially, eliminate the possibility of serious work on campus, make student-faculty interaction difficult and create a generally poor situation. This will make it impossible

to recruit top faculty. It is the death knell to quality. No one really cares. All they talk about is dollars."

• **THORNS TO THE BARRY ADMINISTRATION** for even thinking about creating another monster department, in this case a Department of Public Works, combining transportation and environmental services. The history of these super-departments is that they become extremely costly and certainly no more efficient.

• **ROSES TO THE CARDOZO HIGH SCHOOL BAND** which will take part in the Tournament of Roses parade next January, one of only ten bands selected from outside California. On second thought, the roses are superfluous in this case, so maybe we'll send them a year's supply of clarinet reeds.

• **THORNS TO THE CITY GOVERNMENT** for letting its incinerator become a staging area for rats to infest the surrounding neighborhood.

• **THORNS TO THE CITY COUNCIL** for wasting its time discussing whether the Southwest Neighborhood Commission should be allowed to accept a typewriter as a gift. Under the ANC law, all gifts of more than \$100 have to be approved by the council. In this case, it took two pages in the DC Register just to print the approval resolution. Why make neighborhood initiative difficult?

• **ROSES TO FRED D. MAISE** who just got his master's degree from UDC in adult education. Maise had a 4.0 average. He received his undergraduate degree from Atlanta, Ga. . . . in 1931. He is 75.



• The Peabody School is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Peabody is the fifth oldest school in the city and was the site in which programs later located at Stuart Junior High and Eastern High were first developed.

• Tennis instruction for children will be offered at Hine this summer beginning June 23. Info: 673-7672

WEST OF THE PARK

• The Georgetown pool opens June 23. Info on hours and lessons: 576-6436.

• Tennis instruction for children is available at Lafayette, Paliades, and Rose Park beginning June 23. Info: 673-7672.

Furthermore. . .

PREP SCHOOL PLANS MOVE AHEAD

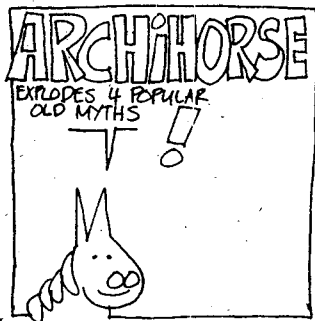
Despite the budget crisis, which is already cutting into some of the school system's special programs, plans are moving ahead for a college preparatory high school to be available to students in the upper 15 percent of their classes. Vince Reed says the school will "reverse the drift towards mediocrity."

The school, if final plans are approved by the school board, would be run out of Hine Junior High on Capitol Hill. It would have an extended day with more stringent requirements than other DC high schools. One year of Latin and two of another foreign language would be required as would community service

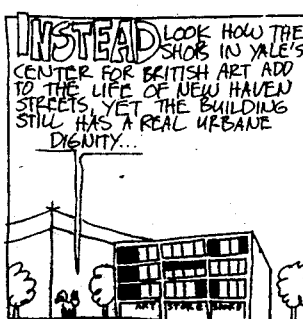
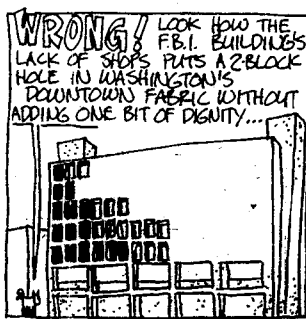
work. There would also be a broader range of electives than found elsewhere.

The school has come under attack for its implications of elitism and for its potential of draining students away from Wilson High School in Upper Northwest. It also appears to be somewhat understaffed with only 25 teachers planned for 700 students. But ex-school board member Minnie Woodson, speaking before the Federation of Civic Associations (which endorsed the plan), argued that "A serious student has a need to feel others around him support him. Until other students start to accept hard work, then this school is needed."

Since the school may open next September, despite the fact that



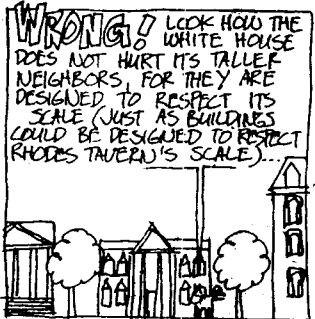
1ST
OLD MYTH:
"BUILDINGS ALWAYS SUFFER SEVERE LOSS OF DIGNITY IF THEY HAVE SHOPS IN THEIR 1ST FLOORS."



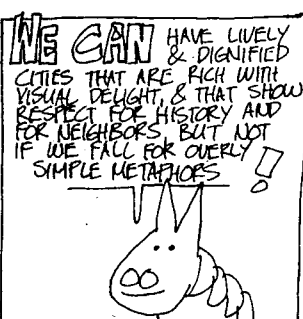
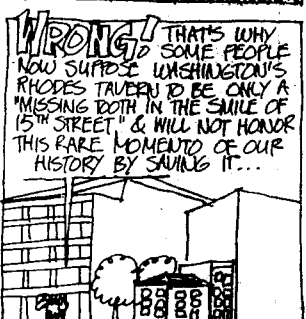
2ND
OLD MYTH:
"A TALL BUILDING WILL ALWAYS ERODE THE QUALITY OF NEARBY LOWER INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS."



3RD
OLD MYTH:
"A SHORT BUILDING WILL ALWAYS DAMAGE THE DIGNITY OF ITS TALLER NEIGHBORS."



4TH
OLD MYTH:
"URBAN DESIGN SHEDS ITS COMPLEXITY IF THROUGH SIMPLE METAPHOR WE BUT SUPPOSE URBAN FEATURES TO BE LIKE FACIAL FEATURES."



plans for it are not complete, parents with potential students would do well to check with their own schools and with the school system on late developments.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING SUGGESTED

A bill currently before the city council would permit the establishment of municipally-owned off-street metered parking in the city's neighborhoods. An amendment offered by at-large member John Ray would prohibit the city from taking residential property and commercial property in use. The amendment would also prevent city-owned lots in downtown areas, within four blocks of a Metrorail station or without a public hearing and comments from the affected neighborhood commissions.

CLASSIFIED

Classified ads are five cents a word. Payment must be enclosed with ad. Deadline: Third Tuesday of the month. Send to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009

PRINCETON GOVERNMENT interns need reasonably inexpensive accommodations mid June to September. Send listings -- location, price, space available, whom to contact, etc., to Minnie H. Reed, Acting Director Career Services, Clio Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544 (ju)

HELP SAVE A LIFE: Rick Dow desperately needs your financial and moral support to help overcome this travesty of justice. Please write him -- Fritchard Dow #41229-115 Box 1500-6L, El Reno OK 73036 or send help to: Ricks Appeal Fund, Box 6083-U, Corpus Christi, Texas. 78411 (ju)

BUS SHELTER ADS

Mayor Barry has signed a bill that would allow the city to award bus shelter franchises. Many of the bus shelters would include advertising panels. DOT estimates that there are at least 1500 bus stops in the city that could use shelters and that 750 of them would be appropriate for advertising. The act calls on the mayor to consult with the Commission of Fine Arts and affected neighborhood commissions, among others, in coming up with locations for the shelters. No ads will be permitted on shelters in the city's residential zones (R-1 -- R-4) At least fifty percent of the equity interest holders in a franchise must be DC residents and at least fifty percent of the voting shares or equity interest must be held by minority individuals or groups.

While the bus shelter franchise idea is a good one, citizens should keep a careful eye on the selection of the operators. In other cities, bus shelter franchises have been involved in major corruption scandals.

GRADUATION RULES TOUGHENED

The DC school board has upped the requirements for graduation from high school. Starting next year, DC's graduation requirements will be the toughest in the area, including an additional two years of math and science, one-half year of DC history and a year of a foreign language. Students will also have to pass a competency test.

NEW PRIMER FOR PARENTS

The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law has released a manual called A Primer for Parent and Community Involvement in the Public School

System of the District of Columbia. This manual considers ways parent organizations can increase the effectiveness of their participation in decisions about the public schools. It provides a detailed description of the Board of Education and its committees; the budget process; the areas of personnel and curriculum; and grievance procedures for parents and students. Included in the manual are descriptions of various legal requirements found in the city code, the rules of the Board of Education, court opinions, union contracts and other documents. Copies of the manual can be obtained for \$8 from the Lawyers' Committee, 733 15th St. NW, (427), DC 20005. For further info call Cynthia Wilson at 347-3801.

DID YOU KNOW THAT....

- There are nearly twice as many black DC students enrolled in non-public schools in DC as there are whites?
- About nine percent of black school-aged children go to non-public schools? About fifty-three percent of all non-black students go to non-public schools.
- While there are 2700 whites in public elementary schools there are only 600 in junior high and 450 in high school? The latino population drops from 773 in elementary school to 230 in junior high to 160 in high school. The black population drops from 51,900 in elementary school to 23,400 in junior high to 18,700 in high school.
- If every non-black DC student currently enrolled in private or parochial school went to the DC school system, the system would be 88% black.

To replace the Willard Hotel would require the energy equivalent of three million gallons of gasoline.

BALLOON PAYMENTS OKAYED

The city council has approved the revival of "balloon payments" on home mortgages. The theory is that during times of high interest rates postponing some of the purchase cost of the house until the end of the loan will make more people able to buy homes. The danger is, of course, that some people won't have the money to pay off the balloon when it is due. This is what happened before and is why the city decided to outlaw such contracts -- which are permissible in surrounding jurisdictions.

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

According to Morton Schussheim, of the Congressional Research Service and an adjunct professor at Howard, the people displacing DC tenants and low-income homeowners are not suburbanites but other DC residents. Says Schussheim: "The District displacees are giving way mainly to young District residents who formerly rented, though some had

moved into the District only recently." Schussheim makes the statement in a report from the Greater Washington Research Center, Rental Housing in the Washington Area.

HUMANITIES GRANTS MADE

The new DC Community Humanities Council has awarded \$58,000 in grants to various local groups for public humanities programs. Recipients are:

- Magic Lantern Cinema: \$2000 for a seven week film and discussion series on labor history as presented in dramatic feature films. Magic Lantern shows films that do not receive broad distribution and which educate the community on workplace, community and value issues.

- Washington Hospice Society: \$6900 for a day-long workshop on "Controlling My Own Death" -- a discussion of the realities and decisions facing the terminally ill patient and their families.

- GALA INC. Hispanic Theatre: \$7000 for a bilingual radio series on the work of hispanic women authors and their importance to the development of Latin America.

- The American Planning Association and the division for Planning and Women at Catholic University: \$10,000 for an exhibit and panel discussion on "Community Design and Family Use," which will look at urban design and planning for DC as it relates to making neighborhoods work better for children.

- The Columbia Historical Society: \$31,600 for a film on the sleeping car porters of DC, their lives and folklore, their encounters with discrimination and their contributions to the community.

The council is finishing up work on its second block of grants which should be announced shortly.

DC'S DUAL ECONOMY

Marion Barry is going around these days proudly announcing that

the city has built more office space in the past year than several of America's largest cities combined. But a recent report from the Greater Washington Research Center suggests this may be something less than an unmitigated blessing.

Says the report: Washington displays the classic characteristic of a "dual economy" -- expanding at the top but stagnant at the bottom. This kind of economy is common in less developed countries. There is little upward job mobility from the lower tier to the upper. There is little automatic "trickledown" employment effect from the type of development Washington realistically can expect over the next decade in its central business district.

Downtown Washington is becoming a national and international center, connected to and involved with the nation and the world more than the region. The trend is toward more association headquarters, law firms, accounting firms, consulting and research firms and international firms -- plus their expansion. Says the Center:

The Last Colony

GAZETTE COMMENT

AMBUSHING THE STATEHOOD REFERENDUM

The Board of Election and Ethics [sic] decision to rule the statehood question off the November ballot amounts to little more than a political ambush. Right to the end, statehood supporters were given to believe that their proposal was in legal order and, in fact, the board's counsel said as much. But the board rejected the advice of its own lawyer because of (a) a typographical error in the drafting of the report that made it appear in one section that the city would be required to expend funds on a constitutional convention (referenda and initiatives can't force the city to spend money as a result) and (b) certain technical changes that had been made to the full text of the initiative even though few of the 22,000 signers of the short-form of the initiative ever saw the full text in the first place. If the board analysed its own elections in such a picaune manner, not one election in this town would be legal. Fortunately, backers of the initiative are taking the matter to court where, one hopes, the right of 22,000 petitioners to have the statehood question voted upon will be approved.

It is hard to believe that the board's action stemmed purely from an excessive interest in legalism. It looks mightily to us like a carefully contrived effort to keep the statehood effort from moving forward -- by some of the same people who speak so fervently in public of their desire for "full home rule." Unfortunately, however, not all the enemies of suffrage are in Congress.

A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL BOARD?

The underground movement to kill off the city's elected school board surfaced last month in a three-part series by Juan Williams in the Post. Mayor Barry, who, one would think, had enough business at the moment, seems interested having the board appointed by himself. Said Williams, "Generally the appointed boards have met with approval because of the high calibre of people who agree to serve on them."

Not only can one point to examples (e.g. New York during the sixties and Philadelphia) where this is

historically incorrect, but one wonders what solace Williams finds in the record of appointed bodies in DC. Would he like the school system run by a body like the Board of Elections? The Zoning Commission? The BZA?

There are plenty of problems with the school system and some of them can be traced directly to the school board. But, as Al Smith once noted, there is nothing more wrong with democracy that more of it can't cure. A sensible reorganization of the school system would involve the decentralization of power to democratically elected community school boards and not the further centralization under the patronage powers of a mayor who has shown less and less interest in public education.

Besides, we have little enough democracy in this town as it is. Don't let Barry and the Post take away some of what we've got.

THE MARIJUANA INITIATIVE

It is important to make the distinction between the marijuana initiative and the gambling proposal that was recently defeated. In the case of gambling, the city proposed to promote and profit from an activity that was previously illegal and which many found objectionable. In the case of marijuana, all the sponsors are asking is that the private acts of individuals (and a good many of them from the looks of it) not be prohibited on moral grounds. This is a big difference.

Further, the marijuana prohibition is ineffective at present, raising a troublesome dichotomy between the purported law of the community and actual practice. Are we teaching kids not to smoke pot or merely that you don't have to obey some laws?

The prohibition is also inconsistent since the comparable drugs of alcohol and nicotine are fully licensed to be sold and consumed.

Finally, one must ask whether a criminal record is more or less healthy to an individual than an ounce of marijuana.

With all the real crime against person and property in this town it is time to end the outlawing of this phony crime and permit our police and prosecutors to get on to more important business.

While this trend strengthens the city's tax base, it will not provide significant direct benefits to persons who are in the lowest income brackets. Thus the dual economy poses an employment dilemma, and it is a dilemma that is particularly acute for unskilled youth.

In the report, How Should the Region's Economy Develop?, written by Edwin T. Haefele, it is suggested that basic industrial and commercial

development be centered on the Baltimore-Washington corridor. Haefele also suggests that rail freight lines and yards be moved out of the city and Alexandria eastward not only to enhance development of the corridor but to free up land in DC and Alexandria.

Following one of the hottest city council debates of recent times, a revised worker compensation

measure has passed that body and been signed by the mayor. The measure will trim benefits to injured workers, increase oversight of medical claims and turn the program over to local control. At present, workers' compensation in DC is the second highest in the nation. Labor forces are upset about the passage and plan to take the matter to the Hill and, perhaps, to introduce a referendum on the issue.

THE GAZETTE BOOKSHELF

THE URBAN FARMER: A useful wall poster on a bright yellow background that tells you when, how and where to plant your backyard vegetables. Really valuable for urban farmers. \$3.50

GARDENING: Although designed to provide nutritional information for the urban farmer, this wall poster is nice just to have in your kitchen to help you remember what healthy eating is all about. \$3.50

NEIGHBORHOOD POWER: A basic textbook for anyone involved in the exercise of neighborhood power. It shows how a potentially self-sufficient community moves from the initial stages of community awareness to the creation of service networks, to the development of community sustaining funds and to the rise of neighborhood government. By David Morris and Karl Hess. \$4.95

NEW DIRECTIONS IN SOLID WASTE PLANNING: This monograph will alter your thinking about how we handle our garbage. By a former director of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Neil Seldman. \$1

ROGET'S POCKET THESAURUS: \$1.50

THE BIG DUMMY'S GUIDE TO CB RADIO: Packed with information for the CBer or potential CBer. Includes a glossary and the ten-code, which you can also use for literary allusions or to amaze your children. \$2.95

BASIC WIRING: A money-saving guide to electrical repairs and renovations inside your house and out. Well-illustrated. \$5.95

BASIC PLUMBING: A well-illustrated guide to dealing with many varieties of plumbing problems. \$5.95

PLAYBOOK: More than 70 spontaneous and inventive things to do for children in all sorts of places. From the practical to the just plain fun. \$4.95.

THE KID'S KITCHEN TAKEOVER: How to mess around, cook up a storm and start your own bread business,

too. Over 120 things to cook, make, grow and do in and out of the kitchen. \$5.95.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF ROLLER SKATING. Lessons, equipment, competition and how to dance on skates. \$6.95.

THE PEOPLE'S SILKSCREEN BOOK: A simple, comprehensive, step-by-step guide to silkscreening. Learn to build the equipment, prepare images and print on paper, T-shirts. Illustrations and bibliography. \$1.95.

FOOD CO-OPS FOR SMALL GROUPS: A handbook for those who belong or would like to start food co-ops. \$2.95.

HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR LOCAL BANK (OR SAVINGS AND LOAN): An extremely useful guide for those looking into local banking practices. \$2

JOY OF COOKING: Best-selling US cookbook with 4300 recipes. \$4.95

VEGETARIAN EPICURE: \$4.95

YOGA: 28-DAY EXERCISE PLAN: With more than 500 photos, this book takes you through all the basic yoga exercises and is arranged so that you advance easily from simpler to more complex movements. By Richard Hittleman. \$5.95

BUSY PEOPLE'S DECIDEDLY DELICIOUS FAST FOODBOOK: Any meal sandwiches, blender quenchers, one-pan plans, refrigerator readies and more. Simple but tasty recipes. \$4.95

JEWISH COOKERY FROM BOSTON TO BAGDAD: Recipes, customs and stories from Jewish communities all over the world. \$9.95

THE WHOLE KITCHEN CATALOG: A guide by the editors of Consumer's Reports to creating a more beautiful, comfortable and convenient kitchen. \$7.95.

THE HOLISTIC HEALTH HANDBOOK: A guide to holistic health in its many forms. Compiled by the Berkeley Holistic Health Center. \$9.95.

COOKING UNDER PRESSURE: An excellent guide to pressure-cooking. \$3.

100 FAVORITE FOLK TALES: "If you buy only one fairy tale book a year, buy this." - New York Times. \$5.95

THE BACKGAMMON BOOK: Introduction and strategy. \$2.50

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X - As told to Alex Haley. \$1.95

WOK COOKERY: A very good guide with recipes. \$4.95

THE SOLAR HOME BOOK: The first book to deal honestly with the drawbacks and blessings of home solar heating and cooling. Simple yet complete, with a wealth of photos, drawings and diagrams. \$7.50

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY SOURCEBOOK: Written specifically with non-experts in mind, this sourcebook identifies the existing small-scale technology. Dozens of tools, books and techniques for food production, home construction, health care, energy sources, etc., are outlined and reviewed. \$4.

SPORTS MEDICINE BOOK: What every athlete, coach, trainer and fitness buff needs to know about exercise, training, nutrition, drugs, injuries, environment and sex. \$6.95

FRISBEE: A definitive treatise on America's greatest existential sport. \$4.95

WHOLE AIR WEATHER GUIDE: A simple but thorough guide to weather including forecasting tips. \$2.95

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